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ABSTRACT

Part of a K-12 sequential series, this teacher's guide provides objectives and activities for social studies students in kindergarten and first grade. Five major sections cover learning, inquiry, and discussion skills, concepts, and values and moral reasoning. Learning skills include listening, speaking, viewing, reading, writing, and map and statistical abilities. Students play singing games, role play, analyze and classify photographs, construct and label a map, and analyze statistics. Inquiry skills include noting similarities and differences, generalizing, classifying, drawing inferences and hypothesizing. Students compare two animals, people from different cultures, and themselves now and when they were babies; make inferences from photographs; and form hypotheses about life in another country. Concepts covered are conflict, interdependence, and communication. Students discuss anger, rules and signs; analyze how parts of their bodies depend on other parts; and play the rumor game. Discussion skills stress group games. Moral dilemmas are centered around common classroom and playground situations. Values clarification is taught through an "All About Me" book, discussions, and interviews with classmates. Sources for many materials are from the Holt Data Bank program. (KC)

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GUIDE

SOCIAL STUDIES

K-1

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The following curriculum product was developed by the Cortland City Schools and the McGraw Central Schools in a cooperative curriculum development effort sponsored by the Cortland-Madison BOCES.

Project Director 1977-78 - Frank Alessi
1978-79 - Frank Alessi
1979-80 - Thomas Thurlow

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The Committee for the Revitalization of the Social Studies Program has prepared this Guide to assist the teachers in the Cortland and McGraw School Systems in the implementation of the Social Studies Program as it has been revised. The Guide is prepared with the following basic curriculum as a framework:

Grades K-6	Holt Data Bank Program
Grades 7 & 8	New York State and American History
Grade 9	World Cultures With Emphasis on Far Eastern and African Cultures
Grade 10	World History and Great Civilizations
Grade 11	American Studies
Grade 12	Social Studies Electives

At each of these grade levels, the Committee has prepared the sequential skill and concept developments which it has deemed important for achieving an effective, meaningful and productive social studies program. It is important that each teacher, at each grade level, seriously endeavor to implement those skills at the grade level for which he/she is responsible.

The goal of the project is mastery of Learning Skills, Inquiry Skills, Discussion Skills, Moral Development/Valuing Skills and Concept Development. The order in which they appear in this Guide is purely arbitrary, and each should be developed simultaneously throughout the school year. Each of the Guides is self-contained for that grade level and is color coded for easy reference. Each Guide contains skill descriptions, teaching activities, a flow chart and special helps. The teacher should first become familiar with each of the five skill areas when planning the year's work. Subsequently, the teacher should constantly check classroom progress in each area throughout the year.

Further development and evaluation of this program will be a continuing endeavor of the Project. It is necessary, therefore, that each teacher add supplementary materials as each may be forthcoming, utilize pre- and post- tests as they are issued, and respond to questionnaires and evaluation sheets which may be included.

This Guide contains the most recent results of countless hours of effort and contributions made by numerous teachers and administrators throughout the life of the Revitalization Program. Conscientious implementation will result in a program which infuses sequential skill and concept development into traditional content curriculum.

HOW TO TEACH SKILLS

For years, content has been the main focus in Social Studies Education. The Social Studies Revitalization Project has come to realize that skill mastery is as important as the acquisition and retention of information. With this in mind, skill development has a high priority in the implementation of our new Social Studies curriculum in this district. In spite of the fact that teachers have been teaching for skill mastery for many years, the Committee feels it is important that a review of skill development guidelines and techniques is worthwhile at this point.

Barry Beyer has developed four general guidelines:

1. The teaching of skills may be done with a variety of media. (films, experiences, as well as texts)

2. Content must serve as a vehicle as well as a goal for learning.

3. The most productive way to teach skills is to integrate them into the natural flow of the course content. For example, within the framework of a study of the American Revolution, the teacher may introduce and develop discussion skills, map skills, listening skills, concepts and values clarification.

4. The teaching of skills must be a conscious and organized effort on the part of both teacher and student.

   The teacher must:

   a. read about, tell about or show the skill
   b. explain the steps involved in using the skill
   c. demonstrate the skill

   The student must:

   a. practice the skill numerous times
   b. reflect on and summarize the skill*

Remember: There is a difference between teaching a skill and (constant) testing for skill acquisition. Teachers frequently assume students have previously acquired a skill, when, in fact, they may never have been systematically taught that skill.

*Beyer, Barry, Back To Basics, Social Science Education Consortium, 1977, pp. 21-23.

LEARNING SKILLS

INTRODUCTION

Seven learning skills were selected by the task group in the social studies project. Most of them will be very familiar to you, the teachers of education.

These skills are:

Listening
Speaking
Viewing
Reading
Writing
Map Skills
Table, Charts, Graphs and Statistical Skills

The Learning Skills Task Group realized that many of these skills are already an integral part of your daily teaching, although they may not be emphasized in the context of social studies. We found that these skills are important to all students and are used in all disciplines.

The purpose of the Learning Skills section of this guide is to clearly define the skills and integrate them into the Social Studies Curriculum. Many of the sample activities can be adapted to various subject matters, as well as to the materials we used.

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LEARNING SKILLS

Skill	Pages
Listening	L3 - L6
Speaking	L7 - L11
Viewing	L12 - L15
Reading	L16 - L18
Writing	L19 - L21
Map Skills	L22 - L23
Tables, Charts, Graphs & Statistical Skills	L24 - L27

LISTENING SKILL BUILDING SEQUENCE

		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A.	Can be aware of emotionally loaded terms and sweeping generalizations.								*	----------				/
B.	Can follow sequence of ideas.		*	----------										/
C.	Can recognize relationships from which inferences and conclusions can be drawn.		*	----------										/
D.	Can be able to determine that some pertinent idea has been omitted and whether content and presentation are fair, accurate, and consistent to topic.								*	----------				/
E.	Can follow directions given orally by teacher.		*	----------										/
F.	Can gather data from a recording when guided or cued.		*	----------										/
G.	Can gather data from teachers' and students' oral presentation.					*	----------		/					
H.	Can gather data from a recording when not guided or cued.					*	----------							/
I.	Can discriminate between main ideas and supporting details in an oral presentation and group discussions.					*	----------							/

* Grade at which skill is introduced
--- Grades at which skill is reinforced, maintained, extended
Grade at which 90% mastery should be expected

THE SKILL OF LISTENING

DEFINITION: An internal process in which the individual tries to understand the spoken language or other sounds.

Skill A Can be aware of emotionally loaded terms and sweeping generalizations.

Skill B Can follow sequence of ideas.

Skill C Can recognize relationships from which inferences and conclusions can be drawn.

Skill D Can be able to determine what has been omitted and whether content and presentation are fair, accurate and consistent to topic.

Skill E Can follow directions given orally by teacher.

Skill F Can gather data from a recording when guided or cued.

Skill G Can gather data from teachers' and students' oral presentations.

Skill H Can gather data from a recording when not guided or cued.

Skill I Can discriminate between main ideas and supportive details in an oral presentation and group discussions.

Note: The teacher is responsible for the following skills at this level:

Skill - B
C
E
F

LISTENING SKILLS
ACTIVITIES

Skill A Can be aware of emotionally loaded terms and sweeping generalizations.

Introduced at Grade 7

Skill B Can follow sequence of ideas.

Introduced at Primary Level

Clapping Game: "Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar."

Arrange the children in a circle. Play the recording and have the children clap along with it. Source: Data Bank Level I, September, Day 2, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston.

Skill C Can recognize relationships from which inferences and conclusions can be drawn.

Introduced at the Primary Level

Listen to a tape about nature sounds. The children will explain and generalize about beauty in nature. Source: Data Bank, Kindergarten Level, March, Activity 9

Children will listen to Recording 10 and will infer that people other than farmers are needed for the production of food. Source: Data Bank, Level I, February, Day 9.

Skill D Can be able to determine what has been omitted and whether content and presentation are fair, accurate and consistent to topic.

Introduced at Junior High Level.

Skill E Can follow directions given orally by teacher

Introduced at Primary Level

Begin this during the Children's Rest period. Ask that they remove their shoes for today's nap, and close their eyes. Promise a surprise waiting when they get up. Source: Data Bank, Kindergarten Level, December, Activity 5

Write on the board, "I feel most like myself when I ....". Direct the children to illustrate their feelings with paints on dark paper. Source: Data Bank, Level I, Related Activities, Day 6.

Activities (con't)

Skill F Can gather data from a recording when guided or cued

Introduced at Primary Level

Discuss Recording III called "Nature Sounds". Play recording again, ask children to identify the two wind sounds, when the recording asks them to. Source: Data Bank, Kindergarten Level, March, Activity 5.

Write the word "then" and "now" on the chalkboard. Ask children if they remember them. Explain that they are going to look at a film strip showing them how work was done then, and how it is done now. Ask them to look for one way in which the use of tools has changed. Show Sound Film Strip 9, Data Bank, Level I, March, Day 8.

Skill G Can gather data from teachers' and students' oral presentations.

Introduced at Intermediate Level

Skill H Can gather data from a recording when not guided or cued.

Introduced at Intermediate Level

Skill I Can discriminate between main ideas and supportive details in an oral presentation and group discussions.

Introduced at Intermediate level

SPEAKING SKILL BUILDING SEQUENCE

		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A.	Can give an oral report.	*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/	
B.	Can participate orally and effectively in:					*	---	---	---	---	---	---	/	
	a. small group discussion													
	b. committees													
	c. forums													
	d. debates													
	e. skits													
C.	Can effectively participate in role-playing situation	*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/	
D.	Can pronounce selected social studies terms correctly	*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/	
E.	Can develop and conduct oral interviews	*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/	

* Grade at which skill is introduced
--- Grade at which skill is reinforced, maintained, extended
/ Grade at which 90% mastery should be expected

THE SKILL OF SPEAKING

DEFINITION: The ability to use audible symbols effectively and understandably.

Skill A Can give an oral report.

Skill B Can participate orally and effectively in:

a. small group discussions
b. committees
c. forums
d. debates
e. skits

Skill C Can effectively participate in a role-playing situation.

Skill D Can pronounce selected social studies terms correctly.

Skill E Can develop and conduct oral interviews.

Note: The teacher is responsible for the following skills at this level:

Skill - A
B
C
D
E

SPEAKING SKILLS
ACTIVITIES

Skill A Can give an oral report. At this level to be able to orally review a simple situation. Example:

a. Show and tell
b. Reacting

Activities to be found in Holt Databank System Kindergarten - encourage children to speculate as to why Thanksgiving some at this time of the year. Source: Databank - Level K

Children will demonstrate an ability to express clearly their thoughts to one another. Source: Databank - Level 1

Skill B Can participate orally and effectively in:

a. small group discussion
b. committees
c. forums
d. debates
e. skits

Introduced at Intermediate Level

Skill C Can effectively participate in a role-playing situation to be able to convey an idea by participating in a spontaneous drama.

The children act out a common family situation. Source: Databank - Level K

Given data on families in five cultures, the children will model the behavior of these families in role plays. Source: Databank - Level 1

Skill D Can pronounce selected social studies terms correctly

These general activities can be adapted to any level of learning.

1. WORD SCRAMBLING: Each one in a group of scrambled words is followed by a definition that states the meaning of the word when it is correctly spelled. Read each of the definitions and then unscramble the word.

2. Several sets of words are given, in each set, two words have a definite relationship following these

two words is a single word followed by a blank. Below the blank are three words. Choose the word that is related to the word preceding the blank in the same way as the first two words are related. Example: employer; employee - management: labor, trade, labor, employment.

3. Attaining Concepts

	Teacher	Student
a.	Say this word after me...	Repeats word
b.	This is an ...	Looks at object, listens to description.
c.	This is also an ...	given, or reads statements to which are illustrative examples of the concept.
d.	This is not an ...	looks at new object, or listens to new description or reads statements which are not samples of the concept (but which may be similar, in similar form, etc.)
e.	Show me an ... or Tell me what you think an ... is or which of these describes an ... or is this an ...	points to object. Defines the concept. Selects from one or more descriptions.
f.	Asks: How then would you define an ...	gives summary. generalizations (definition of concept)

4. Anagram Games, using specialized vocabulary at specific level. Source: Success With Words in Social Studies, English, Science, Math by Harold L. Herber.

5. Use words surrounding an underlined term in each of a group of sentences to figure out the meaning of the term. Example: The interactions of biotic factors influence the development and survival of each other and the species.

6. There are six words in each section. Cross out the two words in each group that you feel are not related to the others. In the blank at the top of each group, write

the term from the list given which best describes the relationship of the remaining four.

7. Use each pair of words, in a list given, in a single sentence that shows the relationship between the words.

a.	population	:	species
b.	community	:	population

8. For several groups of words, arrange each of the groups into a logical progression. State the reason for the sequence in the blank provided.

Skill E Can develop and conduct oral interviews. To use questionning effectively in acquiring information from another person.

You may wish to suggest that the class interview someone who works in the main office. Explain the importance of this office in running the school smoothly.

VIEWING SKILL BUILDING SEQUENCE

		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A.	Can list information derived from a single, still photograph	*	---	---	---	---	---	/						
B.	Can describe what is portrayed in a single, still photograph	*	---	---	/									
C.	Can classify photographs by subject	*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/				
D.	Can discriminate between relevant and irrelevant visual evidence	*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/				
E.	Can make generalizations from visual evidence in single pictures, transparencies, cartoons, movies, filmstrips, or collections of pictures	*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/				
F.	Can arrange an interpretive display on a bulletin board					*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/
G.	Can interpret television	*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/
H.	Can identify and distinguish between various visual media					*	---	---	/					

* Grade at which skill is introduced
--- Grade at which skill is reinforced, maintained, extended
/ Grade at which 90% mastery should be expected

THE SKILL OF VIEWING

The visual inspection and critical assessment with a particular purpose in mind.

Skill A Can list information derived from a single, still photograph.

Skill B Can describe what is portrayed in a single, still photograph.

Skill C Can classify photographs by subject.

Skill D Can discriminate between between relevant and irrelevant visual evidence.

Skill E Can make generalizations from visual evidence in single pictures, transparencies, cartoons, movies, filmstrips or collections of pictures.

Skill F Can arrange an interpretive display on a bulletin board.

Skill G Can interpret television

Skill H Can identify and distinguish between various visual media. Introduced at Intermediate Level

Note: The teacher is responsible for the following skills at this level:

Skill
A
B
C
D
E
G

VIEWING SKILLS

Skill A Can list information derived from a single, still photograph

Given Classification Card 2, ask the children to identify and list the animals that live in water. Source: Data Bank, Level K, April, Activity 8.

The children will read pictures in the textbook to observe the kind of work done by a German child. Source: Data Bank, Level 1, February, Day 4.

Skill B Can describe what is portrayed in a single, still photograph.

The children will look at pictures of old Boston to observe what life was like when the city was new.

Given pictures from magazines of different landforms, the children will talk about vacations they spent at one of these landforms. Source: Data Bank, Level K, June, Activity 3.

Given the textbook, pages 84-87, 90, the children will examine the pictures to describe a fiord. Source: Data Bank, Level 1, April, Day 2.

Skill C Can classify photography by subject.

Have the children look around the classroom, and name some things that are living. Then ask them to name some non-living things. See Data Classification Card #4. Source: Data Bank, Level K, May, Day 3.

Given a sound filmstrip the children will observe at least four ways in which Eskimos have adapted to their environment. Source: Data Bank, Level 1, October, Day 3.

Skill D Can discriminate between relevant and irrelevant visual evidence.

The children will observe at least two facts about early American farming from a filmstrip. Source: Data Bank, Level I, February, Day 8.

Given a picture, the children will identify all pictures that begin with a certain sound - for examples "s" sound.

Skill E Can make generalizations from visual evidence in single pictures, transparencies, cartoons, movies, filmstrips, or collections of pictures.

The children observe, compare, and classify different types of houses. Source: Data Bank, Level K, November, Day 12.

Activities (con't)

The children will use filmstrip 7 and two data masters 7 & 8 to make observations about modern American farming and food processing. Source, Data Bank, Level I, February, Day 9.

Skill F Can arrange an interpretive display on a bulletin board.

Introduced at Intermediate Level

Skill G Can interpret television.

Activities involved here can be adapted to all levels, according to circumstances and at the discretion of the teacher.

Skill H Can identify and distinguish between various visual media.

Introduced at Intermediate Level

READING SKILL BUILDING SEQUENCE

		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A.	Can sound out and pronounce words.	*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/				
B.	Can understand the meaning behind the printed word from context, from written definitions, and by matching words with pictures.	*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/	
C.	Can discriminate between the main idea and subordinate details in paragraphs, or in longer prose passages.	*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/	
D.	Can select relevant factual data from a prose passage, maps, charts, graphs, tables, units, summaries, appendixes, title page.					*	---	---	---	---	---	---	/	
E.	Can follow and understand written directions.	*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/	

* Grade at which skill is introduced
--- Grade at which skill is reinforced, maintained, extended
/ Grade at which 90% mastery should be expected

THE SKILL OF READING

DEFINITION: A complex process of grasping the meaning from print, imagining, translating, inferring the intent, organizing ideas and evaluating meaning.

Skill A Can sound out and pronounce words.

Skill B Can understand the meaning behind the printed word from context, from written definitions, and by matching words with pictures.

Skill C Can discriminate between the main idea and subordinate details in paragraphs or in longer prose passages.

Skill D Can select relevant factual data from a prose passage, maps, charts, graphs, tables, units, summaries, appendixes, title page.

Skill E Can follow and understand written directions.

Note: The teacher is responsible for the following skills at this level:

Skill A
B
C
E

READING SKILLS
ACTIVITIES

Skill A Can sound out and pronounce words.

Each child should read at least two words that have been included in the unit. Source: Data Bank - Level 1, September, Day 11.

Skill B Can understand the meaning behind the printed word from context, from written definitions, and by matching words with pictures.

The children will recognize the words for the seasons in their text book. Source: Data Bank, Level 1, January, Day 7.

Skill C Can discriminate between the main idea and subordinate details in paragraphs or in longer prose passages.

The children will be able to make at least one statement about work and tool use in Norway, Borneo or Maine after reading the textbook. Source: Data Bank, Level 1, April, Day 4.

Skill D Can select relevant factual data from a prose passage, maps, charts, graphs, tables, units, summaries, appendixes, title page.

Introduced at Intermediate Level.

Skill E Can follow and understand written directions.

For example - following directions on their reading worksheets.

WRITING SKILL BUILDING SEQUENCE

		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A.	Can write short answers to questions found in the text and on worksheets.		*	---	---	---	---	---	---	/				
B.	Can construct one-sentence answers to several types of questions.		*	---	---	---	---	---	/					
C.	Can write a short paragraph consisting of a topic sentence and several short sentences containing evidence.			*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/
D.	Can write a short essay consisting of two or more paragraphs.					*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/
E.	Can construct and utilize questions which are designed to secure specific pieces of data.									*	---	---	---	/
F.	Can research and write term papers.						*	---	---	---	---	---	---	/

* Grade at which skill is introduced
--- Grade at which skill is reinforced, maintained, extended
/ Grade at which 90% mastery should be expected

THE SKILLS OF WRITING

DEFINITION: Communication by using written language symbols

Skill A Can write short answers to questions found in the text and on worksheets.

Skill B Can construct one-sentence answers to several types of questions.

Skill C Can write a short paragraph consisting of a topic sentence and several short sentences containing evidence.

Skill D Can write a short essay consisting of two or more paragraphs

Skill E Can construct and utilize questions which are designed to secure specific pieces of data.

Skill F Can research and write term papers.

Note: The teacher is responsible for the following skills at this level:

Skill A
B

WRITING SKILLS
ACTIVITIES

Skill A Can write short answers to questions found in the text and on worksheets.

Skill B Can construct one-sentence answers to several types of questions.

Given a previously made mural, the children will write simple sentences contrasting the colors seen.

Skill C Can write a short paragraph consisting of a topic sentence and several short sentences containing evidence.

Introduced at Grade 2

Skill D Can write a short essay consisting of two or more paragraphs.

Introduced at Grade 4

Skill E Can construct and utilize questions which are designed to secure specific pieces of data.

Introduced at Junior High Level

Skill F Can research and write term papers.

Introduced at Intermediate Level

MAP SKILL SEQUENCING

		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A.	Can accurately determine the distance from one point to another.		*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/		
B.	Can locate varieties of natural phenomena patterns of land use, density of population, relative size of communities, etc.		*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/		
C.	Can state the relative advantages and disadvantages of various types of map projections.				*	---	---	---	---	---	---	/		
D.	Can construct and label a map.		*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/		
E.	Can understand and interpret map symbols.		*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/		

* Grade at which skill is introduced
--- Grade at which skill is reinforced, maintained, extended
/ Grade at which 90% mastery should be expected

MAP SKILLS

Skill A Can accurately determine the distance from one point to another.

Skill B Can locate varieties of natural phenomena patterns of land use, density of population, relative size of communities, etc.

Skill C Can state the relative advantages and disadvantages of various types of map projections.

Skill D Can construct and label a map.

Skill E Can understand and interpret map symbols.

Note: The teacher is responsible for the following skills at this level:

Skill A
B
D
E

MAP SKILLS
ACTIVITIES

Skill A Can accurately determine the distance from one point to another.

1. Orient map and note directions, using relative terms of location and direction. Given north on a map, they can locate the other directions.
2. Use cardinal directions (N,S.E.,& W.) in classroom and neighborhood. Given one direction in classroom or neighborhood, they can locate the others.
3. Use small objects to represent large ones, as photograph compared to actual size, as showing a globe to represent the world.
4. Compare actual length of a block or mile with that shown on a large scale map.

Skill B Can locate varieites of natural phonomena patterns of land use, density of population, relative size of communities, and so forth.

Recognize home, city and state on map of the United States. Identify the United States.

Recognize land and water masses on a globe and various types of maps. Identify globes and maps - discuss differences.

Skill C Can state the relative advantages and disadvantages of various types of map projections.

Introduced at Grade 3

Skill D Can construct and label a map

Construct simple maps properly oriented as to direction.

Learn to make simple sketch maps - to show location.

Make simple large-scale maps of familiar areas, such as classroom or neighborhood.

Skill E Can understand and interpret map symbols.

Understand and interpret use of map symbols and what they represent. Example: blue represents water, brown-mountains, etc.

TABLES, CHARTS, GRAPHS AND STATISTICAL SKILLS

		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A.	Can gather information from tables, charts, and graphs with and without specific cues.	*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/	
B.	Can convert from one form of written tabular or graphic representation to another with or without directions.	*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/	
C.	Can recognize inaccuracies or distortions in graphic presentations.	*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	/	
D.	Can recognize, organize, and construct time lines.					*	---	---	---	---	---	---	/	
E.	Can use an index to gather or present statistical evidence.										*	---	/	

* Grade at which skill is introduced
--- Grade at which skill is reinforced, maintained, extended
/ Grade at which 90% mastery should be expected

TABLES, CHARTS, GRAPHS AND STATISTICAL SKILLS

DEFINITION: The interpretation and representation for tables, charts, and graphs.

Skill A Can gather information from tables, charts, and graphs with and without specific cues.

Skill B Can convert from one form of written tabular or graphic representation to another with or without directions.

Skill C Can recognize inaccuracies or distortions in graphic presentations.

Skill D Can recognize, organize and construct time lines.

Skill E Can use an index to gather or present statistical evidence.

Note: The teacher is responsible for the following skills at this level:

Skill A
B
C

TABLES, CHARTS, GRAPHS, AND STATISTICAL SKILLS ACTIVITIES

Skill A Can gather information from tables, charts and graphs with and without specific cues.

Given Data Master 9, the children will use simple pictoral statistics to obtain data. Source: Data Bank, Level 1, February, Activity 10.

Skill B Can convert from one form of written tabular or graphic representation to another with or without directions.

The teacher will make a bargraph showing the increases in the children's height over a period of time. Source: Data Bank, Level 1, June, Activity 2.

Skill C Can recognize inaccuracies or distorting graphic presentations.

Interpret, analyze, and compare charts and pictoral material. Activities: See the activities under Skill A - Data Bank has numerous sources.

Skill D Can recognize, organize and construct time lines.

Introduced at Intermediate Level.

Skill E Can use an index to gather or present statistical evidence.

Introduced at High School Level.

INQUIRY SKILLS

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INTRODUCTION

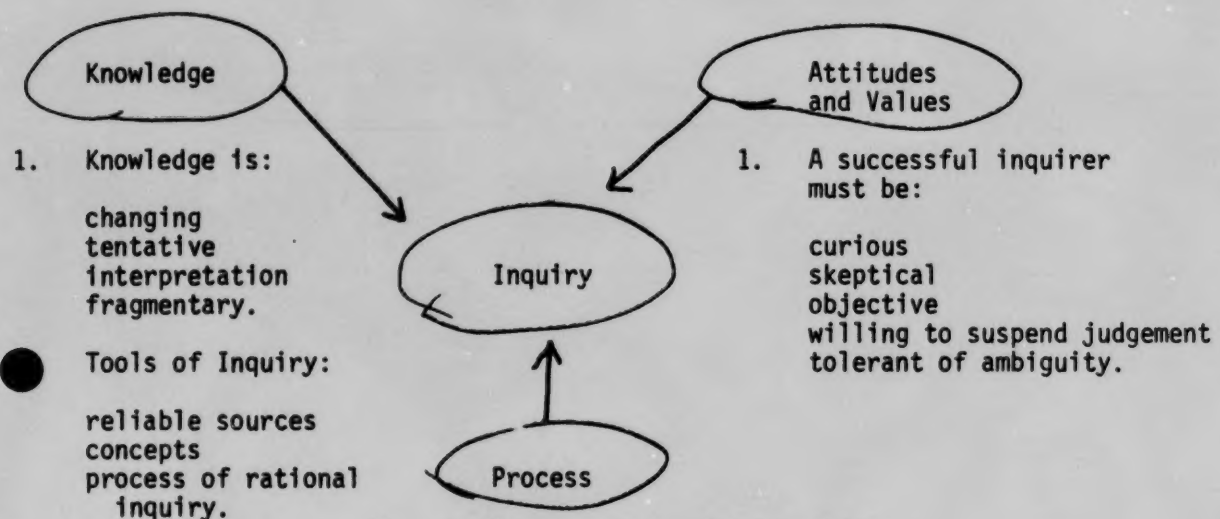
During the past decade, increased attention has been given to the teaching of social studies skills from kindergarten to the twelfth grade. The usual emphasis placed on acquiring content as an end in itself can no longer be justified. To survive in our rapdily changing world, our children do not need to memorize a myriad of useless facts, soon to be forgotten or superseded by new knowledge. Rather, they must leave the classroom equipped with the skills needed to uncover, process, and interpret data. In other words, with the realization that knowledge is doubling almost every decade, our children must possess the skills which will not only enable them to choose relevant data from constantly changing knowledge, but will also enable them to revise and re-evaluate what they have learned.

With this in mind, social studies educators must give priority to teaching skills that will be of most value to their students in the future. Probably the most important of these are problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Once acquired, these skills will enable children to learn independent of the classroom, thus becoming more responsible for their own education. Students equipped with these skills might be better able to cope with their personal problems, as well as survive the complexities of modern day society. Perhaps the most effective way in which these particular skills can be taught is through the use of inquiry.

What is "inquiry"? Some people have labeled it an approach, some have referred to it as a teaching method, while still others have termed it a strategy. Adding to the vagueness even more, some people believe that inquiry is synonymous with asking questions, analyzing information, critical thinking, or problem-solving. Yet amidst all this confusion, one common feature of inquiry emerges - that is, inquiry refers to a specific way that people can be guided in learning. According to Beyer, inquiry is a process that requires the learner "to perform

certain intellectual operations in order to make experience understandable."* It requires working with data in a special way, certain kinds of knowledge, and the possession of a unique set of attitudes and values that will support this particular way of learning.

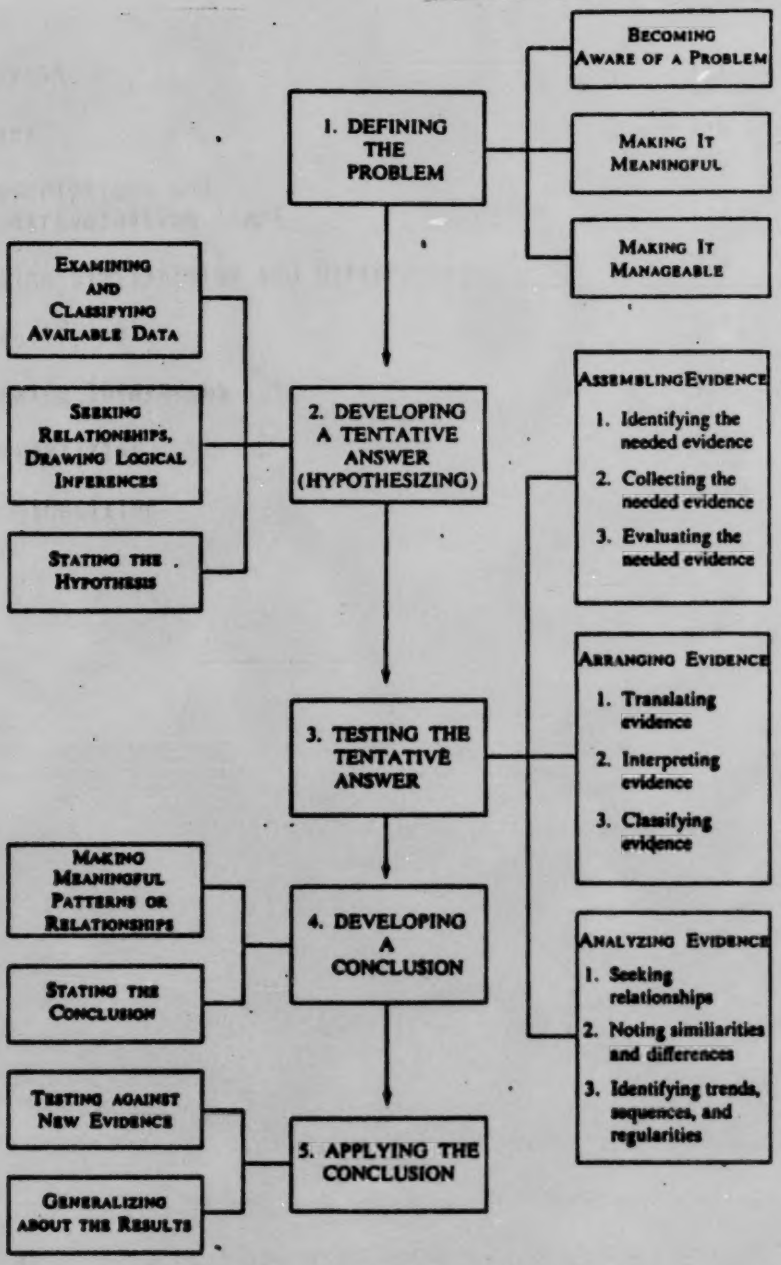
Refer to the diagram below...*



As depicted in this diagram, the three dimensions of inquiry are in practice inseparable. However, the "process" of inquiring is the key to inquiry. It is this process that makes inquiry learning so different from other ways of learning. It is a complex way of learning, but a very effective one. When viewed in its entirety, it looks like this...

*From Barry K. Beyer's Inquiry in the Social Studies Classroom: A Strategy for Teaching, Charles E. Merrill Publishing Co., Columbus, Ohio 1971.

The Process of Inquiring*


1. DEFINING THE PROBLEM
Becoming Aware of a Problem
Making It Meaningful
Making It Manageable
2. DEVELOPING A TENTATIVE ANSWER (HYPOTHESIZING)
Examining and Classifying Available Data
Seeking Relationships, Drawing Logical Inferences
Stating the Hypothesis
Assembling Evidence
1. Identifying the needed evidence
2. Collecting the needed evidence
3. Evaluating the needed evidence
3. TESTING THE TENTATIVE ANSWER
Arranging Evidence
1. Translating evidence
2. Interpreting evidence
3. Classifying evidence
4. DEVELOPING A CONCLUSION
Making Meaningful Patterns or Relationships
Stating the Conclusion
Analyzing Evidence
1. Seeking relationships
2. Noting similiarities and differences
3. Identifying trends, sequences, and regularities
5. APPLYING THE CONCLUSION
Testing Against New Evidence
Generalizing About the Results

*Refer to note on I-2; (page 50).

"In essence this process involves three distinct types of intellectual operations - making inferences from data, testing these against more data, and synthesizing bits and pieces of information into meaningful wholes. These operations are performed over and over again in almost every stage of inquiring. In the hypothesizing stage, an inference drawn from a brief survey of the data may be quickly tested and synthesized into a hypothesis. In the testing stage, this hypothesis is examined in the light of new evidence as each aspect is checked and inferences are made about it, tested, and finally refined, retained, or discarded. ...this process may be repeated numerous times before any acceptable conclusion is reached. Finally, these same three operations are engaged in when one treats the conclusion as a hypothesis to test it against additional data before finally accepting it... . These operations form the heart of the inquiry process - but they are not synonymous with it. The process uses these for different reasons and thus encompasses much more." (Refer to note on I-2; pg. 51).

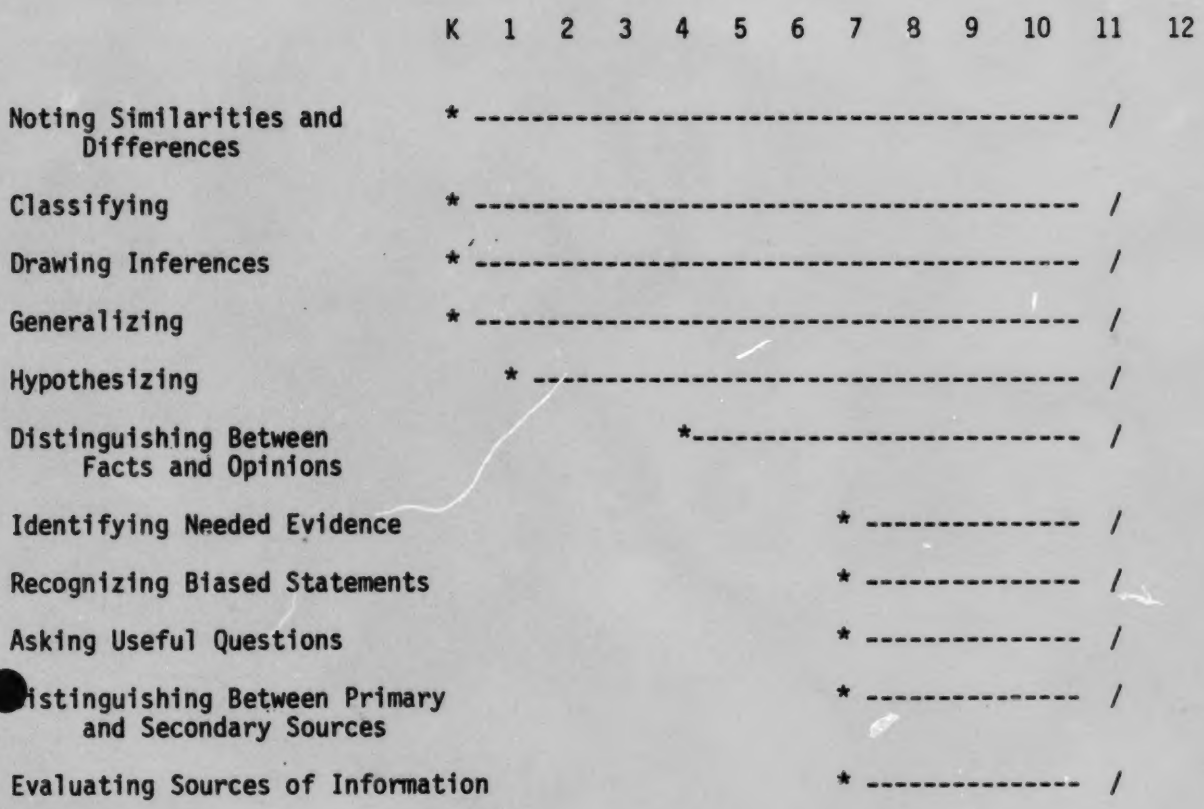
"The process of inquiring, furthermore, utilizes analytical thinking (deliberate, step-by-step, logical thinking) and intuitive thinking (guessing, hunching, jumping to conclusions). Inductive reasoning, moving from bits and pieces of data to all-encompassing statements, and deductive reasoning, moving from all the relevant data to a concluding statement, are also used repeatedly and often interchangeably. Inquiring involves many acts, some conscious and deliberate, others haphazard and almost automatic. It is not always a neat progression of steps from one simple operation to another a bit more complex. The inquirer may frequently go through this process a number of times before the initial problem is resolved. Yet, inquiry starts with a problem or question of some sort and moves at varying rates of speed to some type of a resolution or conclusion. It is one way of making meaning from experience." (Refer to note on I-2; pg. 51).

The skills necessary for successful inquiry are numerous. However, for our purposes only eleven have been selected to be implemented in our comprehensive and sequential social studies program, kindergarten through the twelfth grade. They are as follows:

1. Noting Similarities and Differences
2. Classifying
3. Drawing Inferences
4. Generalizing
5. Hypothesizing
6. Distinguishing Between Facts and Opinions
7. Identifying Needed Evidence
8. Recognizing Biased Statements
9. Asking Useful Questions
10. Distinguishing Between Primary and Secondary Sources
11. Evaluating Sources of Information.

On the following page is a flow chart which identifes the particular grade in which a skill is to be introduced, the grades in which the skill is reinforced, and finally the grade in which mastery should be expected.

FLOW CHART



* Grade at which skill is introduced
--- Grades through which skill is developed and reinforced systematically
/ Grade at which mastery should be expected

NOTING SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

(Comparing)

Skill Description:

Students at all levels should be provided with sufficient opportunities to note likelinesses and differences. Initially, it is common practice to focus on differences. It would appear that what makes the difference is what really counts. Few of us observe the numerous similarities of objects which exist. When we ask them to contrast, we are asking for differences only. The kind of comparisons we attempt to elicit will depend on a variety of factors, namely, the age, grade level, and maturity of the student, as well as the nature of the task at hand. In the earlier grades, comparison may involve concrete objects; in the later grades, abstractions.

Examples:

1. Compare the two animals pictured below

Monkeys and Elephants

Similarities:

(1) Both are animals
(2) Both are mammals
(3) Both have hair on body
(4) Both have eyes, nose, mouth, and tails
(5) Both can be found in Africa and Asia

Differences:

Monkey	Elephant
(1) Can use front paws for manipulation	(1) Cannot use front feet for manipulation

Differences (con't)

Monkey	Elephant
(2) Can use fingers	(2) Cannot use toes
(3) Swings by tail	(3) Cannot swing by tail
(4) Moves quickly and freely	(4) Moves in a cumbersome way
(5) Is smaller than an elephant	(5) Is larger than a monkey
(6) Cannot lift large logs	(6) Can lift large logs
(7) Has no trunk.	(7) Has a long grunk.

If you were comparing a monkey with an elephant, perhaps you would have thought of other items to list instead of, or in addition to, those in this example. YOU are the one to decide what you will include in your comparison.

2. Compare the political climate, for the introduction of new economic solutions to the Great Depression, at the beginning of Hoover's presidency with the political climate four years later when F. D. R. assumed the presidency.

Noting Similarities and Differences

Level: Kindergarten

Source Holt Databank (Inquiring About Myself)

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Sample Objectives

Objective #1 The student will compare himself as a kindergartener with himself as an infant, using photographs (Sept., Basic Activity 5)

Objective #2 Using Data Pack 4 the children will describe similarities and differences among the houses shown and will then compare one of those pictures to their own home. (Oct., Basic Activity 7)

Objective #3 Students will compare holiday celebrations of other cultures with their own celebrations. (December, Basic Activities 2-6)

Sample Evaluation Items

#1 Sample questions which could be asked could deal with size, hair, skin, eyes, abilities, etc. Record student responses.

#2 Sample questions which could be asked could deal with style, size, building materials, doors, windows, porches, etc.

#3 Have each child draw a picture of any holiday custom other than their own. Ask each student how the custom he has illustrated is the same as or different from a custom of his/her own family.

Noting Similarities and Differences

Level: One

Source: Holt Databank (Inquiring About People)

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Sample Objectives

Objective #1 Given Datacard 2, the children will note at least two similarities and two differences between the lives of Japanese and American children. (Unit 3, January, Basic Activity 8)

Objective #2 After reading the textbook, pages 69-79, and discussing the information contained in those pages, the children will note similarities and differences between the lifestyle of the people who inhabit the Borneo rainforest with their own lifestyle. (Unit 4, March, Basic Activity 4)

Objective #3 After going for a walk to observe the environment for nonverbal, verbal, or combined forms of communication; and charting the data gathered, the children will compare the three forms of communication for effectiveness. (Unit 5, May, Basic Activity 2)

Sample Evaluation Items

#1 Teacher should observe students while they are talking about the lives of Japanese and American children.

Points to compare in discussion: clothes, activities, home, etc.

#2 Observe how well children discuss the ideas presented in the textbook. During the discussion teacher should note if children are able to notice similarities and differences between the lifestyle of the people of Borneo rainforest with their own lifestyle.

Sample points to be covered during the discussion:
- food and food preparation
- work
- tools
- clothing

#3 In a group discussion, the following questions could be asked:

a) What kinds of things are communicated well without words?
b) What kinds of things are communicated well by words?
c) What kinds of things are communicated best by a combination of words with other things? Why?
d) Which of these three forms of communication do you think is most important? Why?

CLASSIFYING

Skill Description:

"To classify is to assign names and arrange the data. It is a process of sorting to suit a particular purpose. Classification is putting data into groups. Each member of a group has one or more characteristics in common. Therefore, one can identify and place like things in certain categories or classes. Classification normally goes on throughout the inquiry process."*

Classification is used extensively in our lives. Evidence of classification can be found in the supermarkets, in our places of work, as well as in our homes. And frequently items which we find classified, can be grouped in many different ways depending on the purpose for the classification.

Example:

Group the following words into as many different classifications as possible:

cat	elephant	sheep
shark	turkey	robin
tuna	trout	tuna
lion	bass	pike
dog	eagle	bluebird

Possible categories might be as follows: animals that fly, animals that live in water, etc.

*Taken from Teaching Social Studies Skills, by June R. Chapin and Richard E. Gross; Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1973, page 191.

Classifying

Level: Kindergarten

Source: Holt Databank (Inquiring About Myself)

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Sample Objectives

Objective #1 After viewing two filmstrips illustrating the development of a plant and the development of a baby, the children will be able to classify the stages of human growth. (September, Basic Activity 5)

Objective #2 After returning from a walk outdoors, the students will put all the items they collected on a large table. They will examine the items carefully, then they will be asked to put similar items together. (October, Basic Activity 2)

Objective #3 After looking around the classroom and naming some of the things they see, the students will classify living and non-living things. (May, Basic Activity 3)

Sample Evaluation Items

Sample questions could deal with newborn baby, crawling stage, standing, talking, etc.

#2 Possible groups could be leaves, nuts, etc.

#3 Possible living things: plants, fish, people, possible non-living things: sink, chairs, desks, etc.

Classifying

Level: One

Source: Holt Databank (Inquiring About People)

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Sample Objectives

Objective #1 After observing members of the class, children will classify their classmates by hair color. (Unit 1, September, Basic Activity 3)

Objective #2 Given illustrations representing five different times of day, the children will put these scenes in chronological order. (Unit 2, December, Basic Activity 1)

Sample Evaluation Items

#1 Make a chart on the board with different eye colors: brown, blue, green. Record students that fit in each category.

#2 Students could be asked to draw various activities they participate in in school each day. Then, they could take the illustrations and classify them in chronological order ... morning, noon, afternoon.

Drawing Inferences

Skill Description:

In understanding the significance of spoken or written statements it is frequently necessary to be able to grasp implications or inferences which may not be stated directly. Thus the whole matter of grasping the meaning of statements beyond the actual facts presented is a very important skill or ability in considering material in the field of the social sciences, as well as in other fields. This process is closely akin to general reasoning processes followed in the study of logic, but, of course, has implications to learning in the social studies.

It is important for pupils to learn the limitations of a passage as well as the inferences which may properly be drawn from it. For that reason, several of the numbered statements on the next page go beyond the information provided in the passage to the extent that they are not warranted as inferences. Practice with exercises of this type will aid in developing in pupils the ability to draw conclusions or recognize correct inferences and also to recognize statements which are unwarranted as inferences from the data provided.

Inference: "A truth or proposition drawn from another which is admitted or supposed to be true; a conclusion; a deduction" (unabridged dictionary).

EXAMPLES

I. Directions: Assuming that the information in the paragraph on the next page is true, it is possible to establish other facts using the ones in this paragraph as a basis for reasoning. This is called drawing inferences. There is, of course, a limit to the number of kinds of facts which may be properly inferred from any statement.

By writing the proper symbol in the space provided, indicate that a statement is True, if it may be properly inferred from the information given in the paragraph. Indicate that it is Untrue, if the information given in the paragraph implies that it is false. Indicate that No Inference can be drawn if the statement cannot be inferred one way or the other. Use only the information given in the paragraph as a basis for your responses.

Use the following symbols in writing your answers:

T - if the statement may be inferred as TRUE
F - if the statement may be inferred as UNTRUE
N - if no inference can be drawn about it from the paragraph

By the close of the thirteenth century there were several famous universities established in Europe, though of course they were very different from modern ones. One of the earliest to be founded was one of the most widely known. This was the University of Bologna where students from all countries came who wished to have the best training in studying Roman Law. Students especially interested in philosophy and theology went to the University of Paris. Those who wished to study medicine went to the Universities of Montpelier or Salerno.

____ 1. There were lawsuits between people occasionally in those days.

____ 2. The professors were poorly paid.

____ 3. In the Middle Ages people were not interested in getting an education.

____ 4. There were books in Europe at that time.

____ 5. Most of the teaching in these medieval universities was very poor.

____ 6. There was no place where students could go to study.

____ 7. There were no doctors in Europe at this time.

____ 8. There was no way to travel during the Middle Ages.

____ 9. If a student wanted to be a priest, he would probably attend the University of Paris.

____10. There were no universities in Europe before the thirteenth century.

____11. There was only one language in Europe at this time.

Drawing Inferences

Level: Kindergarten

Source: Holt Databank (Inquiring About Myself)

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Sample Objectives

Objective #1 After observing their new classmates and new environment, the students will infer some of the classroom rules (September, Basic Activity 1)

Objective #2 After observing the changes that fall brings, the students will be able to infer why Thanksgiving comes at this time of the year. (November, Basic Activity 2)

Objective #3 After discussing the concept of air travel, the students will be able to infer that air travel is usually the fastest way to cover long distances. (June, Basic Activity 4)

Objective #4 After reviewing their imaginary car trip from the preceeding day and after discussing the rules they followed during the trip, the students will infer why traffic lights, speed limits, and street signs are necessary. (June, Basic Activity 7)

Sample Evaluation Items

#1 Take the children on a tour of the room. Point out the facilities available to them. Ask such questions as:

1) If there are two easels here, how many of you can paint at one time?
2) How many of you can sit at this table if there are only four chairs?

#2 Have students bring pictures from home (or provide a source of pictures in the classroom) of the food items found on the menu for an American Thanksgiving dinner. As children display their pictures ask:

1) What time of year is this food harvested?
2) Why is this food harvested in the fall?
3) What does the word "Thanksgiving" mean?

#3 Ask the following questions:

1) If you were going next door to play with your friend, how would you get there?

2) If you were going to the grocery store with your mother (family), how would you get there?

3) If you were going to visit your grandmother in another state how would you travel? Why might you take a plane instead of a bicycle or a car or train?

#4 Ask the following questions:

1) Why should people stop their cars then they see a stop sign?
2) Why are there speed limits on highways?
3) Why are there traffic lights at some corners?
4) Why aren't children allowed to drive real cars?
5) What do adults have to do before they are allowed to drive a car?

Drawing Inferences

Level: One

Source: Holt Databank (Inquiring About People)

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Sample Objectives

Objective #1 Given a picture of an Alaskan family, the students will be able to infer what life might be like for children living in a different environment. (Unit I, October, Basic Activity 2)

Objective #2 Given a sound filmstrip entitled "The Borneo Rainforest," the children will make at least two inferences about the way people live and work in the rainforest. (Unit 4, March, Basic Activity 3)

Objective #3 Given textbook pages 84-88 and data on the geography of a Norwegian fiord, the children will make at least one inference about how people there would live. (Unit 4, April, Basic Activity 3)

Sample Evaluation Items

#1 Look closely at the pictures on pages 16-17 in your text. In what ways would Charlie's life be different from yours?

#2 From the data presented in the sound filmstrip, help the children to make inferences with questions such as:

a. What time of day is it?
b. Why do you think they might be in bed early?
c. Why do they build these types of houses?
d. Why might they need boats?
e. Which other group that you have studied eats rice?
f. Can you think of any reason why they might do so?

#3 Using the textbook material on pages 84-88, help the children to make inferences with questions such as:

a. Why do you think Norwegians use so many boats?
b. Do you think these people are farmers? Why or why not?
c. Do you think there are big factories in Norway?
d. Do you think Norwegians can catch many fish from the fiords?

GENERALIZING

Skill Description

A generalization is an understanding of a relationship between or among concepts. It is a means of linking ideas and concepts into a working relationship. Understandings called inferences, hypotheses, conclusions and principles are defined as generalizations. The relationship asserted by the phrase, "Land, labor, and capital are used in all production", is an example of a generalization. This phrase involves the separate concepts of land, labor, production, capital, and goods, and combines these concepts to form the generalization that some concepts are included in production of goods.

To clarify further the meaning of generalizations the following definitions are given:

1. A generalization has a relationship between concepts.
2. A generalization applies to whole categories, and asserts that something is true of some or all factors.
3. A generalization is a higher level of thinking than component concepts. It involves the meanings of the concepts but it makes its own meaning as the understanding of the concepts.
4. A generalization is based upon inference. It is derived from reasoning or suggestion, and it extends the scope of knowledge beyond observable data.
5. A generalization can be judged for truth and validity, which can be tests. If people agree on the meanings of the concepts in the generalization, then, by examining appropriate evidence, it can be tested by the methods of reasoning or inquiry.
6. The generalization is a body of understanding not verbalization, and is shown by overt behavior resulting from internal comprehension.

*Beyer P106-7 (Refer to note on I-2)

Generalizing

Level: Kindergarten

Source: Holt Databank (Inquiring About Myself)

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Sample Objectives

Objective #1 Divide the children into pairs. Call out parts of the body such as: face, ear, legs, knees, etc. Each child will point at that part of his partners body. This exercise will help children arrive at generalizations about human likenesses and differences. (Setpember, Basic Activity 2)

Objective #2 After discussing holiday celebrations in Holland the children will be able to discuss and generalize about holidays and celebrations in other countries. (December, Basic Activity 5)

Objective #3 Do a lesson on water and its uses. The children will be able to generalize about water and its uses. (April, Basic Activity 5)

Sample Evaluation Items

#1 Sample questions could deal with how people are alike and how they are different.

#2 Have students name as many holidays as possible. Then have them discuss them and arrive at general statements concerning them.

#3 Sample questions which might help students arrive at a generalization could deal with uses of water, jobs that involve water, where does water come from, etc.

Generalizing

Level: One

Source: Holt Databank (Inquiring About People)

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Sample Objectives

Objective #1 After viewing a filmstrip about the changes that have occurred since great-grandparents time, the children will make a simple statement relating time and change. (Unit 2, November, Basic Activity 8)

Objective #2 Given data on farming in three countries, the children will make a statement about the relationship of farming to seasons. (Unit 3, January, Basic Activity 10)

Objective #3 Given the words "individual" and "family", the students will be able to think of a statement that would show the relationship between these two words. They should also think of statements that relate these words to different cultures. (Unit 5, June, Basic Activity 1)

Sample Evaluation Items

#1 Sample questions might deal with clothing, travel, foods, homes, etc.

#2 Sample questions might deal with specific seasons, crops that are grown during specific seasons, plowing, planting, harvesting, animals, jobs on the farm that might vary according to the season.

#3 Sample questions might include the following: role of mother, role of father, role of other family members.

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HYPOTHESIZING

Skill Description

Hypothesizing is a process of inquiry growing out of attitudes, values and knowledge. It is a complex operation which requires an individual to first define a purpose for inquiring and then to guess at a tentative answer or solution - to hypothesize. Then the hypothesis must be tested against relevant data and draw a conclusion about the truth of tentative answer - hypothesis.

1. Define a purpose - one feels a need to know something about a question or problem, and to examine the purpose within limits.
2. Guess at a tentative answer - solution or plan. The guess is based upon the available data, plus the background experiences of the inquirer, and is conditioned by his own particular frame of reference.
3. Testing the hypothesis against relevant data. After forming the hypothesis it must be tested to see how it is supported by the relevant information. Data must be gathered, evaluated, and analyzed to test the hypothesis.
4. Drawing a conclusion about the accuracy of the hypothesis. If the evidence examined supports the guess, then it is accepted as an answer or explanation. If the evidence does not support the hypothesis, then a second hypothesis must be formed, and tested again.
5. Apply the conclusion to new data and generalize. Conclusions are tested to see if they face up to the new data. This broadens the conclusions and becomes more general and less specific.

*Beyer, page 21 (Refer to note on I-2)

Hypothesizing

Level: One

Source: Holt Databank (Inquiring About People)

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Sample Objectives

Objective #1 Given data on Kenya's location and seasons, the children will make one hypothesis about what life might be like in Kenya. (Unit 3, February, Basic Activity 5)

Objective #2 The children will pick new locations at random and hypothesize about the types of work done by the people of these locations. (Unit 4, April, Basic Activity 7)

Sample Evaluation Items

#1 As children come up with hypotheses, encourage them to think of good reasons to substantiate them.

#2 Sample questions should deal with location (geography), climate, weather, etc.

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CONCEPTS

INTRODUCTION

One basic set of tools students need are concepts that will give them a chance to organize and process the increasing mountains of information which confront them. This includes the bombardment of data and stimuli from all sources - not just the classroom. For a long time educators have been convinced that learning can best be organized around various centralizing themes or concepts.

To achieve this end, lists of concepts were gleaned from each of the social sciences. And the lists have grown; the teacher's edition of practically every text at every grade level is loaded with concepts. Many of these organizing labels are appropriate for exploring limited subject matter and gaining some small insight. For instance, once a student has grasped the concept of *irrigation*, it is easily applied - at least to certain phenomena. The concept may not need to be taught in later grades.

But notice this: a few of the words in those growing lists are of a different order. *Interdependence* and *conflict*, for example, are included in most collections of concepts. Those two words suggest something larger, more vital than *sea transportation, buying and selling*, or *political parties*. They are larger organizing themes; they represent forces that pervade our lives. The understanding of conflict and interdependence is important to understanding ourselves and the world around us.

To separate these larger themes from the extensive listings, we can call them *universal concepts*. They cut across disciplinary lines - each of the social sciences can shed some light on them. In fact, they go beyond the social sciences - other areas of exploration, such as literature, art, science - can offer valuable perspectives. These universal concepts also cut across longitudinal lines; that is, they should be dealt with at each grade level as a vital part of the learning process.

This idea of universal concepts can provide us with the kind of organizing themes we need. These over-arching concepts should be thought of as ways of looking at the world, lenses for seeing things from a certain perspective. They become analytical tools for pulling together seemingly diverse phenomena; students can apply them to their own lives and surroundings as well as to a variety of course materials.

Clearly if universal concepts are to have any value, there needs to be a sequence of development. As the child matures, he or she should be learning to apply a number of these lenses in an increasingly sophisticated manner. And even in the very early grades, the child should be able to explore how these concepts operate on the global level as well as in his or her personal life and surroundings. This does not mean that every class period should be devoted to concentration on one universal concept or another. Rather, the idea is that working with subject matter in a certain way at various times during the year will lead students to incorporate these perspectives into their thinking.

FLOW CHART

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Conflict	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	/	
Interdependence	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	/	
Communication	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	/	

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INTRODUCTION
CONFLICT IN THE K-12 CURRICULUM

Conflict is a major force in nature and in people's lives. It has been part of the development of all past human societies. Indeed, we cannot conceive of any form of society, past or future, in which there will not be conflict. As we begin to know more about what it is and how it works, we improve our chances of coping with it more effectively. At the same time we come to understand ourselves better and see the world around us more clearly.

Of course, young people do learn about conflict - they encounter it dozens of times every day. But the knowledge gained is far from systematic; it is as likely to be misinformation as it is to be valid enough to serve as guidelines for decisions. In our schools, we tend to gloss over the subject, treating it as something unpleasant that should be handled as delicately as possible. A Stanford University group studied the way in which conflict was presented in social studies texts at the third and ninth grade levels. Their report stated that: "Not only are few problems presented; those that do exist are depicted as not severe. The majority of the examples of conflict in the books we analyzed, regardless of what issue was involved, tended to be presented either as neutral (24%) or as being carried out in a spirit of cooperation (71%)."

Children are also exposed to conflict on television, and here they encounter the idea that conflict is usually violent and resolved by violence. Adult programming is often criticized for its penchant for violence; children's programs are statistically six times as violent. The average child witnesses an estimated 18,000 TV deaths a year! (Statistics from a special news report, KPIX-TV, San Francisco, May 10-12, 1975.)

Clearly we must correct these distortions, and begin to deal with conflict in a more realistic way. Conflict is limited neither to friendly disagreements nor to murder and mayhem. One major objective should be to help students gain a healthy attitude toward conflict. This involves recognizing that conflict is a basic part of everyone's life. Rather than being an inescapable evil, it often serves positive functions. For example, conflicts over ideas of government contributed not only to American independence (through violence) but to the creation of a superb constitution (without violence). Without the need to work out conflicts, these things would not have happened. The Constitution itself is a master plan for expressing, regulating, and resolving conflicts.

By working through conflicts in a wide variety of settings, students will come to understand that:

- avoiding conflict is not necessarily a good way to deal with it;
- the belief that if everyone obeys the rules there will be no conflict is an oversimplification;
- there are many ways to express and resolve conflict; the socially accepted ways of resolving conflict are usually more successful than unaccepted ways;
- conflict is often *not* a win-lose situation; both sides can gain (or lose) some things.

To achieve such objectives, you will sometimes have to counter-balance text generalizations - particularly those generalizations based on the assumption that conflict is unpleasant and to be avoided. Some examples:

- if everyone obeys the rules, conflicts will go away;

- conflict is a sort of necessary evil; cooperation, the opposite of conflict, makes everyone feel better.

Texts do deal with the expression of anger, but it is also important to see other kinds of conflict - the opposition of ideas, the working out of differences, and finding solutions to problems.

A more open and sensible approach to the subject can serve a number of important goals. Understanding conflict:

- develops a more realistic self-awareness;

- contributes to knowledge of one's role as a group member and as a member of society;

- becomes a link for seeing relationships among a number of subject areas, especially literature, social studies, science and art;

- can be used as a lens for seeing more clearly the world around us - the natural environment, the local community, the global setting.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES IN TEACHING ABOUT CONFLICT, K-12

1. To develop students' understanding and acceptance of conflict as a natural and normal force in our lives.

2. To recognize that irrational conflict or violent conflict tends to be more destructive than conflict dealt with in socially accepted and non-violent ways.

3. To be able to see similarities in the dynamics of conflict at all social levels - personal, group, community, nation, world community.

4. To explore a wide variety of ways to express conflicts and to resolve them.

5. To accept the idea that conflict can be either harmful or beneficial (dysfunctional or functional).

6. To develop some of the tools needed to cope more successfully with a world characterized by constant and increasing conflict.

SOME KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

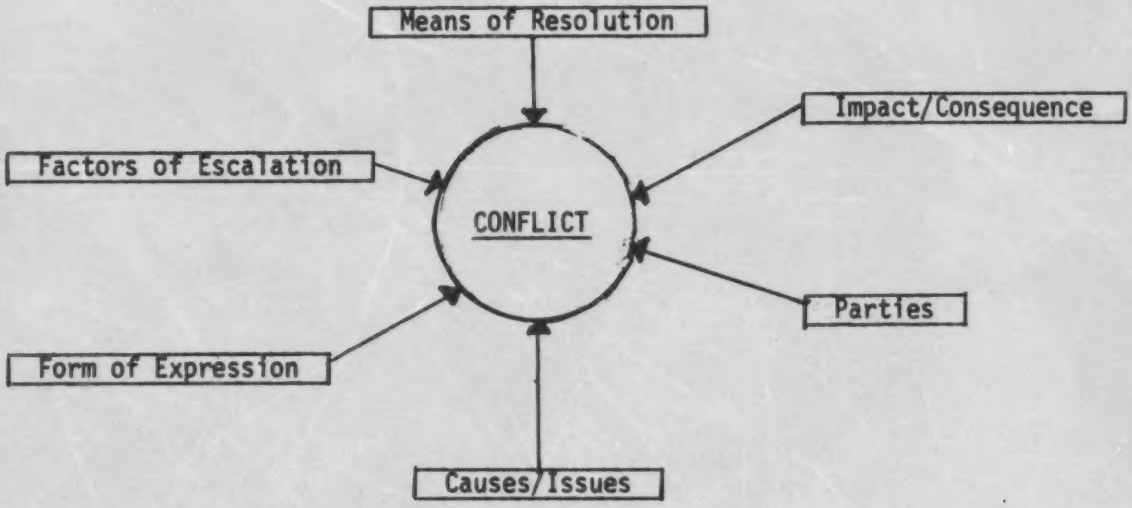
1. You do not have to deal with conflict - or any other universal concept - every single class period.

2. You should mention the label as infrequently as possible - hearing the words too often can have a negative effect.

3. Use the guide to find topics which lend themselves most readily to teaching a particular concept. This will help you avoid bending the subject matter to fit a concept. It will also reduce preparation time and the need for outside materials.

4. Draw on the other areas of experience as much as possible - life experiences, well-known news events, television programming, things that are going on in the students' other subjects, especially language arts and sciences.

5. While an important goal of these guides is to develop a better sense of the total world environment, you will find that much of the learning focuses on the concept without trying to stretch it to global implications. This approach is important: if concept is to work, the students must gain experience in as many different settings as possible - including their personal lives and their immediate surroundings as well as national and worldwide concerns.



Overall objectives for Primary Grades (K-3) students will:

1. begin seeing how conflict operates in a number of settings, including:
   - the student's own lives
   - families
   - nature
   - communities

2. be able to pick out examples of conflict, identifying the central problem, and examining different resolutions.

3. know that rules provide us with a means of expressing conflicts and resolving them.

Conflict

In the Kindergarten and first grade the concept of conflict can be effectively introduced in general terms to the students. The students have probably experienced personal examples of conflict, either real or through literature and television.

General Understandings from the study of Conflict:

1. When people have a problem (conflict), they try to do something about it.
2. Some things will solve the problem (conflict).
3. Some things could make it worse.

The following lessons and activities have been designed to facilitate students progress toward our General Understandings and our overall K-12 objectives.

Lesson I "What If"

Procedure:

A. Read a story to the children involving a conflict situation.
Ex. "The Lion and the Mouse"

B. Ask students:
1. who has a problem?
2. what is the problem about?
3. how does it end?
4. can anyone think of better endings?
*you can pursue the idea of possible endings by asking "and then what would happen". This encourages children to think about the consequences of actions.

Lesson II "Talking About Feelings of Anger"

Major objectives:

Students will
- begin to accept the idea that conflict is natural; everyone has conflicts
- identify several different ways of settling conflicts

Procedure:

A. Present a conflict involving a family; i.e., moving to a new neighborhood or brother-sister problems over sharing items

B. Ask students:
1. do you find that you sometimes get angry and can't help it?
2. is this like _____? (the person in the story)
3. would it be good to throw something at the other person, or to sock that person?
4. what other things could you do?
5. What endings does the class like best?

Lesson III "Rules-Rules-Rules"

Major objectives:

Students will:
- begin to accept the idea that conflict is natural; everyone has conflicts
- identify several different ways of settling conflicts
- know that rules help us deal with problems

Procedure:

A. Introductory activity - have the class try to plan something without your help, like a picnic, field trip, or fantasy journey to the moon. Chances are they can't do it without first establishing rules. Notice that once there are rules, conflicts still come up over when to go, who is in charge, and so on. The rules give us a way of settling these conflicts.

B. Kinds of rules - use pictures to make bulletin board displays of the kinds of rules we have and why we have them.

This could include:

Rules	What kinds (examples)?	Why we have them
Family rules		
Safety rules		
Classroom rules		
Playing rules		

Lesson IV "Conflict Among Animals"

Databank: Level I Inquiring About People
Unit I: You and Your Family
Activity 8: "Animal Families"

Major objectives:

Students will:
- identify the causes of the conflict
- develop possible consequences of the conflict
- relate conflict in the animal world to human conflicts

Procedure:

A. Have students look at picture of lion cubs (student text, page 11)

B. Ask:
(a) what is the problem the cubs are having?
(b) when they see the food, what do you think the lion will do?
(c) can you think of any better ways of solving this problem (real or fanciful)?

C. Tell students:
(1) "Animals have problems, so do boys and girls."
(2) Ask:
a) what kinds of problems are children faced with?
b) how do they usually solve these problems?
c) Are some ways better than others?

D. Tell students: "Animals live together in families and sometimes they have problems getting along with one another. People also live in families and they sometimes also have problems. This is one way in which animal families are like human families - they all have problems."

Lesson V

Databank: Level 1: Inquiring About People
Unit 5: People and Words
Activity 2: Wordless Wordy Walk

Procedure:

A. Make a collection of signs students see when walking around the school or neighborhood (except advertising signs). You may go for a walk with the class and record the text of the sign you see; or have each student bring in a list or set of drawings of signs he has seen.

B. Choose a variety of signs from your collection and ask these questions about each one:
(1) What does the sign say? Why do you think it was put where it is?
(2) What would happen if the sign wasn't there?
- would you have trouble with any other people?
- would you be likely to hurt buildings, or land?
- would you be hurt yourself?
(3) Is the sign a good way of handling these problems?
(4) Does the sign make the problems go away completely?
(5) Can you think of a better sign, or is this sign just right?
(6) If you wanted to change the sign, what could you do?

C. Next, turn to your own classroom. Are there any rules people tend to forget? Would a sign help? Are there problems (conflicts) that seem to come up again and again (such as who will use a certain toy or area)? Would a rule help there? Have students make appropriate rules.

The children should see rule-making as an on-going process designed to fit the needs of certain people at a certain time.

INTERDEPENDENCE IN THE K-12 CURRICULUM

Interdependence means simply *mutual dependence* - parts of a whole depending on each other. The significant thing about this simple definition is that it describes one of the basic and important features of the world we live in. When we talk about such things as the Shrinking Planet, or Spaceship Earth, or the Global Village, we are acknowledging the fact that the human species is being more tightly bound together with each passing day. We find ourselves living in huge global webs, although awareness often comes only when some sudden jolt in one of the strands - like the Energy Crisis - reverberates through all the others.

The forces at work creating this village environment are not hard to find - the continuing innovations in technology, mass communications, and high-speed transportation working on such tendencies as the urge of business to expand, the scattering and overuse of scarce resources, the desire of the have-nots to have something, the uncontrolled growth of population, and the age-old belief in fighting for what one wants. Taken together, all these elements magnify our Spaceship proximity, making us inescapable partners with our fellow passengers.

Actually, there are probably few of us who want to be neighbors with four billion other humans. Tribalism developed long before tele-communications, and we have always been suspicious of anyone from outside the village limits. But now suddenly the borders between villages have become blurred.

Being tied so closely to others does not necessarily mean that a sense of world community is the inevitable outcome. But this is the mistake our texts so often make. We teach children how communities depend on each other, how different regions of the nations are interdependent, and occasionally, that these interdependent strands (at least economic ones) stretch to the coconut groves of the South Pacific, the oil fields of the Middle East, or the manufacturing centers of Japan. The student, if he or she is encouraged to think in global terms, sees an extension of local voluntary inderdependence - like the friendly farmer producing food for the city workers.

Unfortunately, global interdependence is considerably more complex than mutual dependence within a nation or region. Intervening variables such as nationalism, racism, ethnocentrism, and the lack of accepted rules make the equations untidy. In fact, contact may create just the opposite of increased understanding, despite acknowledged common ties. Indeed, the most violent of wars have always been those which involved people who had common ties.

A major goal of education, therefore, must be to help students understand the ambiguities of global interdependence. There are parallels in the way interdependence operates at all levels from the nuclear family to the world family. Interdependence, at each of these levels, contains the potential for integration but also for conflict. The enormous task we face, then, is to help young people understand exactly what interdependence is and what factors can be fostered to maximize its potential for good.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES IN TEACHING ABOUT INTERDEPENDENCE, K-12

1. To increase students' awareness of the forces creating global interdependence.

   a. The continuing revolutions in industrialization, transportation, communication

   b. The problems which bind us, such as population pressures, gaps between rich and poor, the uneven distribution of goods and scarce resources, the need to control violence.

2. To increase students' understanding of the ways in which global interdependence influences the lives of the individuals, families, communities, and nations.

3. To increase students' acceptance of the idea that interdependence can create new problems as well as the potential for a better life.

4. To help students explore some of the factors which make it difficult to live within our "webs of interdependence";

   examples: Tribalism (including nationalism)

   egocentrism and ethnocentrism

   increased competition for scarce resources.

5. To help students develop the tools needed to analyze the various systems and subsystems which make up the global webs - economic systems, political systems, ecosystems, etc.

General Objectives
Primary Grades (K-3)

Students should:

- develop a beginning understanding of what we mean by mutual dependence - people or parts of things depending on each other.
- by grade 3, know and use the term interdependence.
- become aware of how interdependence influences their own lives, their families, their communities.
- view interdependence as a basic to all human life, and see how the concept operates in the natural environment and the life of animals.

Lesson I "Parts of You"

Databank: Level I "Inquiring About People"
Unit 1 You and Your Family
Activity: Introduced at any point in this unit

Objectives:

Children will:
- state ways in which parts of the human body depend on other parts
- give examples of how a breakdown in one part of the body influences the entire person
- compare interdependence in the human body with the functioning of a family
- demonstrate greater willingness to work together as a group and class members

Materials:

1. newsprint

Procedure:

1. Select a number of children to lie down on newsprints and make a tracing of his or her outline - can be painted or colored
2. Play the following game, pointing to parts of various children's pictures:
   - How do "Anna's" feet depend on her eyes? (she has to see to walk, to watch her feet)
   - How does George's hair depend on his hands? (to be combed)
   - How does your left arm depend on your right? (etc)

3. You may wish to talk about the handicapped as part of this lesson.

4. Ask: "What happens when part of the human system breaks down, or is missing?"

5. Extend the analogy to the family:

> If a parent or sibling goes away or is sick, does the family work as well? Do chores get done? Does everyone get as much love and attention, or have as much fun?

6. Finally, discuss how we depend on one another in the classroom.

Lesson II "Squirrels and People"

Databank: Level 1 Inquiring about People
Unit 1: You and Your Family
Activity 8: "Animal Families"

Objectives:

Children will:
- give examples of how plants and animals depend on (help) each other
- recognize that nature's system includes the killing of animals of one species by animals of another
- make inferences about a squirrel's life in a human-dominated environment

Procedure:

A. Either read the following story or tell it in your own words. Pictures of squirrels should help.

TAKE THE SQUIRREL*

"Ecology is the study of how things fit together."
- Gene Marine

Take the squirrel. He lives in the hollows of dead trees - killed by disease and dug out by woodpeckers. There he stores acorns and other nuts for the winter. He buries some nuts in the ground where they will stay moist till he digs them up on bright warm days in winter and early spring. Some of these he may not use - because he dies, has enough food somewhere else, or is just absentminded. These nuts which the squirrel has "planted" often live to grow into new trees.

In spring the squirrel scampers through the branches of the forest. He cuts off and drops twigs that are in his way and eats buds, rich in stored-up food. In this way, the squirrel does a lot to cut away extra stems. If they grew, they would compete with each other for light inside the crown of the tree. So, by cutting away extra stems, the squirrel is probably helping

to keep the trees healthy. And there is no doubt that his habit of burying nuts is as valuable to oak and hickory as the food they furnish is to him.

This is not all the squirrel does. He dodges snakes, hawks, and foxes. When he fails, he becomes food for these animals. In turn, these animals keep the number of squirrels from becoming too great.

The squirrel defends his nesting and feeding territory, keeping other squirrels spread out at a distance. This makes sure that there are never too many squirrels for the food supply. His droppings enrich the forest soil.

The squirrel's body, inside and out, provides home and food for many different parasites. To say that squirrels are lousy is simple truth, and no insult to these lively, complicated little fellows.

B. Begin discussion with these questions:

- In nature, animals help plants and plants help animals. How does the story show that squirrels help trees? That trees help squirrels?
- Hawks sometimes kill squirrels. Is this cruel? Can you think of any way in whcih this helps squirrels in general?
- Can you th nk of ways that forest plants help people? (wood for houses, pretty spots for hikes and picnics, etc.)
- Can you think of ways that people help forest plants? (fire control, reforestration)
- Can you think of ways people have hurt the forest?
- It is easier for squirrels or people to hurt the plants and animals around them?
- Why do people have to be extra careful to help living things in the forest?

COMMUNICATION IN THE K-12 CURRICULUM

We will be using the term *communication* in its broadest sense - it encompasses the many ways of sending and receiving messages between people, as well as learning to deal more effectively with the various forms of mass media. The latter, for example, would include distinguishing fact from opinion, identifying hidden messages, and analyzing the influence of the media on lifestyles and personal decisions.

The following is a list of some of the goals developed in this set of guides. The list is not definitive or final. You will probably discover that other goals are also being met and, of course, you may not be working toward all of these at a given grade level. It is important to keep in mind that our basic aim is to provide students with a beginning mental image of what is involved in the word communication. Only in this way can we avoid the all-too-common situation in which students create their own mental image which turns out to be distorted or inadequate and thus fails to aid them in processing information.

Through experience, the student will gradually add to and modify his or her idea of communication. This will be achieved by applying the concept in increasingly sophisticated ways to a wide variety of subject matter. Thus, the overarching goal is to learn to use this concept as one more tool for making sense out of the world around one.

GOALS OF LESSONS FOCUSING ON COMMUNICATION

Students will:

1. recognize that communication includes not only language and artistic expression, but also appearances and behavior;

2. understand that clear communication involves quality as well as quantity - i.e., we can talk with friends or family members at great length and still miscommunicate;

3. perceive that the increased quantity of communication across national or cultural boundaries does not necessarily lead to understanding and acceptance;

4. gain experience in coping with such barriers to clear communication as

    - cultural differences in behavior and values,
    - misperception,
    - language differences,
    - ethnocentrism,
    - stereotyping;

5. improve skills in writing, speaking, listening, and interpreting non-verbal forms of communication;

6. experiment with various forms of self-expression in writing and art forms;

7. understand that good communication depends on language and thinking skills - including logic and the ability to recognize and analyze alternatives;

8. gain appreciation for the rich spectrum of ways in which humans convey messages to each other;

9. compare human and animal means of communication and cultural similarities and differences in communicating.

Lesson I Getting The Message

Databank: Level 1: Inquiring About People
Unit 5: People and Word
Activity 5: "Words at Work"

Objectives:

Students will:
- identify at least two reasons why messages become confused
- through playing "the rumor game", recognize the values of confirming a message
- demonstrate improved listening skills in drawing a picture from oral instruction

Procedure: "Rumor Game"

A. Begin with a message containing "who, where, what, when" elements, such as "Yesterday Sally's frog ate all the guppies in her fishbowl at home." Pass this message by whispers from student to student around the class, then discuss the warped message that emerges at the end

B. Try the game a second time with another message but require everyone to repeat the message back to the sender for confirmation before sending it on. Students should quickly see how accuracy is improved.

C. "Active Listening"

Even when we listen carefully, we can't always get the exact meaning that is in another person's mind. Demonstrate this by having children draw a "monster" according to your description. Provide specific features, such as "fat brown legs" or "pink claws." The children's drawings will look quite different, even though they may be accurate representations of what you said. Discuss with the class how we can't always express what we mean. Ask: why should we be extra careful to understand what people are trying to say?

Lesson II Animal Language and Human Language

Databank: Level 1: Inquiring About People
Unit 5: People and World
Activity 3&4: "Animals and Words"

Objectives:

Students will:
- observe and list ways animals send messages
- through a cooperative activity, draw inferences about the difficulty of communicating without words
- compare animal and human responses to danger signals

Procedure:

A. Begin with the close observation of pets - at home or in the classroom. Ask the children to tell about ways the animals give messages. How does it tell you when it's hungry? playful? sleepy? angry? frightened? Throughout this activity, point out similarities in animal and human communication.

B. To indicate the importance of human language, have the class (or groups) try a cooperative task without speaking. Allow them to use facial expressions, hand signals, and so on - but no words. After a few minutes of this, ask such questions as:
   - how did it feel without language?
   - what were some of the mistakes made in sending or receiving messages?
   - what funny things happened?
   - how would the project have been easier if words could be used?

C. Another way to explore differences in animal and human communication is through danger signals. Both animals and humans send messages that call for quick action. But humans can be much more exact in giving warnings, and they can think about what the safest thing to do would be.

   Ask students to tell stories about some "what if" situations - first using animals as the subject and then humans.

   Examples:
   - you (first a cat, then a person) and a friend come to a busy intersection
   - you and some friends are in a forest and you hear a gun shot
   - you are in a building and you smell smoke
   - you hear someone calling for help

RESPONSE FORM

1. Do you feel that the overall format of the Concept unit was appropriate for your grade level?

2. Were the lessons appropriate for the development of each concept?

3. What additional help can the concept's task group give you?

4. What successful activity have you developed that would be of benefit in developing these concepts.

Your Name Is _____

Your School Is _____

Your Grade Level _____

:11
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DISCUSSION SKILLS

INTRODUCTION

In our daily lives, few skills are used and abused more than discussion skills. Mastery of discussion skills is vital to success in almost every endeavor in our lives. Few of us, however, have had systematic training in the development of discussion skills and techniques. An examination of various curricula indicates that no plan exists for the sequential development of discussion skills. Too often we have assumed that discussion is an art with which we are born. Productive discussion requires the use of several skills which must be learned in a sequential fashion.

While we as educators must accept most of the blame for this lack of discussion skills development, it is not difficult to determine why this situation has persisted. We have not addressed ourselves to the need for the explicit and systematic teaching of discussion skills throughout the K-12 curriculum. Our study of the process of learning discussion skills indicated that a student's ability to engage in productive discussion is dependent on a variety of social skills and attitudes.

A student's ability to engage successfully in a discussion is dependent upon his ability to cope with emotions, to engage in listening empathically and affectively, and to demonstrate courteous behavior. A student must also possess a self-concept and have a willingness to contribute in order to participate in a productive discussion. Before discussion skills can be introduced, the students needs to develop the social skills needed for human interaction. Much of this work is presently being done on the primary level. By the end of the primary years, the students have begun to develop simple discussion skills and they engage in different types of discussion such as problem-solving and open-ended discussions.

It is the feeling of the Committee, however, that because of the press of other curricula demands, this elementary program of building the necessary social skills along with the systematic development of discussion skills begins to be neglected in the upper elementary grades and, for the most part, on the junior high levels. Yet, interestingly enough, teachers on the senior high level expect the student to have acquired the needed skills prior to the tenth grade.

This basically is the situation which faced our committee. Knowing full well that successful discussion requires mastery of both social as well as discussion skills, the Committee, nevertheless, decided to begin our task with what seemed to be the more manageable - the naming and describing of only those skills which we felt were the most basic to discussion and which could be developed systematically for K-12. Our list of discussion skills is not intended to be a comprehensive list; it is merely a beginning. We recognize that later it will be necessary to identify, describe and sequence the learning of social skills throughout the K-12 curriculum. That task awaits us.

Our present report includes the identification and description of eight basic discussion skills and their subskills. The identification and description of these skills was no easy task and some teachers may disagree with our choices. We will undoubtedly add certain skills as we implement the discussion skills aspect of the curriculum. In the meantime, we have suggested classroom activities which might be used to develop each of these skills, and we have made suggestions for evaluation items and techniques. In no way are these activities intended

to replace the teacher's imagination or creativity. Instead, we hope these suggestions will serve to stimulate new ideas and approaches. We will frequently consult with you as you develop more ideas and materials for teaching discussion skills. An S.O.S. form to be used to exchange suggestions, criticisms, and pleas for help is included at the end of this packet.

* Grade at which skill is introduced
-- Grade at which skill is reinforced, maintained, extended
/ Grade at which 90% mastery should be expected

SKILL BUILDING SEQUENCE	GRADE LEVEL												
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1. Getting acquainted and establishing trust	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2. Organizing for action													
a. Maintaining order within a group.	*	--	--	--	--	--	/						
b. Introduced to roles of initiator, clarifier, summarizer, evaluator, contributor & recorder.								*	--	--	/		
c. Introduced to roles of encourager & harmonizer											*	--	/
3. Contributing to the discussion													
a. Recognizing the value of contribution	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	/			
b. Taking the responsibility to contribute	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
c. Responding to other contributions	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1) Verbal	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2) Non-verbal	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
4. Active listening													
a. Listening for a specific purpose	*	--	--	--	--	--	/						
b. Listening to perceive differences of opinion and areas of agreement					*	--	--	--	--	/			
c. Listening carefully to be able to paraphrase what someone else has stated					*	--	--	--	--	/			
d. Listening to distinguish between fact and opinion								*	--	--	--	--	--
e. Listening carefully to be able to summarize what someone else has stated											*	--	--
5. Learning to co-operate	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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Skill Building Sequence (continued)

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6. Setting clear goals													
a. Recognizing the issues													
1) Stating the issue								*	--	--	--	--	/
2) Identifying the types of issues													
(a) Moral of value issues								*	--	--	--	--	/
(b) Issues of definition								*	--	--	--	--	/
(c) Issues of fact and explanation								*	--	--	--	--	/
(d) Legal issues								*	--	--	--	--	/
(e) Disagreement over frame of reference								*	--	--	--	--	/
b. Recognizing the types of discussion													
1) Simple recitation								*	--	/			
2) Inductive questioning								*	--	/			
3) Open-ended questioning								*	--	/			
4) Problem solving								*	--	/			
5) Debate									*	--	/		
c. Recognizing the purposes of discussion													
1) To solve problems								*	--	/			
2) To air one's opinion								*	--	/			
3) To find out what others think								*	--	/			
4) To clarify one's point of view								*	--	/			
5) To re-evaluate one's point of view								*	--	/			
6) To gain feelings of acceptance & belonging								*	--	/			
7) To persuade								*	--	/			
7. Discussion with a direction													
a. Being sensitive to other's responses											*	--	/
b. Stating the issue over which there is disagreement											*	--	/
c. Pursuing the issues systematically											*	--	/

Skill Building Sequence (continued)

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7. d. Making explicit transitional statements											*	--	/
e. Recognizing the relevance of statements to the issue											*	--	/
f. Thinking on two levels													
1) "Taking a stand" and defending it											*	--	/
2) Being aware of the discussion process and student's role in it											*	--	/
8. Arriving at a conclusion													
a. Reaching a majority opinion	*	--	--	/									
b. Recognizing the four types of conclusions								*	--	--	--	--	/
c. Reaching a consensus											*	--	/

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Eight Basic Skills and Their Importance in Discussion

1. Getting acquainted and establishing trust

In order for a group to function well, it is important for all members to get acquainted and establish trust so that each person feels comfortable with that group.

2. Organizing for action

Maintaining order within a group is a basic skill that needs constant attention and reinforcement. Initially, the process is teacher-directed. As the students become proficient in this skill, they should be encouraged to become self-directing in small groups at first, aiming at total class involvement and self-direction.

Hopefully by grade seven, the students have had experience with the various roles necessary for having a good discussion and would now be ready to recognize and to perform these functions:

INITIATOR - gets the discussion underway, helps the group organize itself, keeps the group moving steadily toward its goal

CONTRIBUTOR - offers facts, opinions and experiences which might aid the group in solving the problem

CLARIFIER - raises questions about contributions that are unclear, asks for definitions of vague or ambiguous terms, requests additional information

SUMMARIZER - points out the relationships between contributions, summarizes where the group stands on an issue (then checks with the group to make sure he is accurate)

EVALUATOR - shows the group how well they are moving toward accomplishing their goal, points out problems they are having in working together

RECORDER - keeps a record of the main points of the discussion, writes down the group product if it is to be submitted to the teacher, helps refresh the group's memory about what has been covered in a discussion

By grade ten, the more sophisticated roles of encourager and harmonizer may be introduced.

ENCOURAGER - tries to get all members of the group to contribute by showing interest in what they say, praising their contributions, being friendly

HARMONIZER - helps to relieve tension and settle disputes between other members, helps the group work out its disagreements, suggests compromises.

3. Contributing to the discussion

a. Recognizing the value of all contributions

Group members need to learn that in trying to arrive at an answer to a question they must elicit contributions from every member and consider all contributions carefully.

b. Taking the responsibility to contribute

The student must individually decide what knowledge he wishes to contribute and when he wishes to contribute it. The pieces of information come from the student's own store of knowledge.

c. Responding to other contributions

(1) Verbal

Students must become aware of what others are saying and react to those contributions. Keeping to the point is essential for good discussion. The results of the discussion should be a combination of ideas - a group product.

(2) Non-verbal

Whenever two or more people interact, they send and receive messages both verbally and nonverbally. Our non-verbal behavior may be as communicative as our verbal behavior.

4. Active listening

a. Listening for a specific purpose

b. Listening to be able to perceive differences in opinion and to perceive areas of agreement

c. Listening carefully to be able to paraphrase what someone else has stated

Before a student can constructively contribute to another's comments, he must thoroughly understand the other's position. Therefore, it is important that the student learn to restate what was said before he responds to it.

d. Listening to distinguish between fact and opinion

e. Listening carefully to be able to summarize what someone else has stated

If a discussion is to progress toward a meaningful conclusion, the participants need to be able to discuss and digest only the salient points. The student needs to learn to make a statement of the main points of the substance of the discussion.

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5. Learning to cooperate

Members of classroom groups need to be encouraged to work with one another, instead of against one another, in accomplishing their goals. In group discussion, co-operation consists of drawing others out instead of arguing with them, sharing information, and assembling all contributions into a group product.

6. Setting clear goals

A. Recognizing the issues

(1) Stating the issues

One of the first challenges of discussion is to sort out how many different things are being said about the topic. There is a need to identify the points of agreement and disagreement. This allows the participants to focus on the topics and to pursue them systematically. To state issues clearly, it is useful to translate into questions the main positions or opinions that the participants have. Students should be able to state clearly what the main issue of the discussion is. Prior to seventh grade, the committee feels the teacher takes the responsibility for stating the issue.

(2) Identifying the types of issues

(a) Moral or value issues - "goodness or badness" based on certain moral principles. Where there are two conflicting values in a discussion, one must be violated regardless of which policy stand is taken. An effective way to point this out is through the use of familiar situations similar to the situation being discussed. Use of familiar situations forces the discussant to do two things:

1 - See that there are at least two competing values.

2 - Show why we may uphold a value in one situation and yet reject the same value in a similar situation.

(b) Issues of definition - a "labeling problem"

1 - Deciding which examples should or should not be classified under a controversial label ("Communist")

2 - Selecting general criteria in a definition

a. Stipulation - simply agreeing to use a word consistently in a specific way

b. Use of an authoritative source - a dictionary

(c) Issues of fact and explanation - disagreements about the descriptions or explanation of events. For example, "Man is a warlike animal" might be viewed by one person as being a fact while another might see it as being opinion.

(d) Legal issues - usually a combination of value, definitional and factual questions. The first issue in a legal question is whether or not a particular action can be classified as falling under an existing law. It then becomes a question of defining whether the act in question is covered by an existing law. Application of the law usually carries with it a sense of fairness. Concepts such as fairness, impartiality, and avoidance of cruel and unjust punishments are clearly value judgements.

(e) Disagreement over frame of reference - the way different people look at the world. The way people come to see the issues in a case is determined by their frame of reference, the most important values and beliefs that influence how they look at the world. For example, the proposed building of a new school might be viewed quite differently by a school child, a teacher, a taxpayer and a custodian.

B. Recognizing the types of discussions

For discussion to be successful, all members must know at all times what the goal of their interaction is. There are several types of discussion. Most types may be used on the elementary level, even if they are not specifically named. However, at the junior high level, the student should be aware of, and be able to identify, the five basic types of discussion. These are:

(1) Simple recitation - student answers questions asked by teacher and other students.

(2) Inductive questioning - student develop an idea as the result of careful, organized questioning by the teacher.

(3) Open-ended questions - encouraging the students to think and to value their own ideas as well as the ideas of others - no right or wrong answers.

(4) Problem solving - attempting to reach student consensus, not just sharing ideas.

(5) Debate - a structured exchange of two opposing sets of ideas, carried on under a set of rules.

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C. Recognizing purposes of discussion

In addition, there are many purposes for discussion. The teacher may find it desirable to make the purpose of the discussion clear at the beginning. Hopefully during the junior high years, the student should understand and be able to interpret the seven basic purposes of discussion:

(1) to solve problems

(2) to air one's opinion

(3) to find out what others think

(4) to clarify one's point of view

(5) to re-evaluate one's point of view

(6) to gain feelings of acceptance and belonging

(7) to persuade

7. Discussing with direction

An effort to produce clarity in a "disciplined discussion" depends upon factors such as listening, responding to the issue, and trying to keep on the track.

A. Being sensitive to other's responses - developing sensitivity to what others are saying. The student should be able to recognize sensitive and insensitive conversation.

B. Stating the issue over which there is disagreement - this is necessary when the participants throw in too many opinions and there is much disagreement. The student needs to develop the ability to summarize the nature of the issue over which there is disagreement - this provides focus and direction for the discussion. A good way to do this is by stating the issue in question form.

C. Pursuing the issues systematically and with some degree of continuity - sticking with the issue long enough to deal with its problems thoroughly.

D. Making explicit transitional statements - making explicit the changes of transitions of the issues in a discussion.

When someone chooses to change the issue under consideration, he must make an explicit transitional statement, explaining why a change of issue at that point would move the discussion forward.

E. Recognizing the relevance of statements to the issue - determining whether or not a particular statement is related to the issue under consideration.

Challenging the relevance of a statement is a way of pressing toward greater continuity - systematically focusing on one issue at a time.

F. Thinking on two levels - discussant thinks on two levels at the same time:

Level #1 - He has to "take a stand" and think of reasons to defend it.

Level #2 - He has to be aware of the "discussion process" itself and his role or roles in it. For example, Am I responding to others' contributions? Am I actively listening? Am I sticking to the topic?

8. Arriving at a conclusion

Not all types of discussion result in a group product; it depends on the purpose of the discussion. The four types of conclusions are

a. Open-ended - each member comes to an individual conclusion in his own mind.

b. Authoritarian decision - a power figure imposes his conclusion on the whole group.

c. Majority-minority opinion - a group product which reflects the best to which all members can contribute.

d. Consensus - when the group arrives at a decision to which all group members can concur or support.

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Table of Contents - Activities and Evaluations

for

Grade 2

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*1. Getting acquainted and establishing trust

Activity 2

Students stand in a circle. As one student bounces a ball to another, the receiver introduces himself (possibly adding other information about himself). The student then bounces the ball to another student and the next student introduces himself. For example "My name is Beth. I like chocolate cake. I bounce the ball to .....".

Activity 2

Show and tell - each day one student will be the "captain" for that day. He should bring something special to school to share with the class. This activity is very good for establishing trust within a group, and helping a child to feel accepted and part of the group.

*2. Organizing for action

A. Maintaining order with a group

Activity 2

Pre-Activity Instruction

At the beginning of the year, the teacher and class should jointly establish rules which will pertain to discussions held in that classroom. These rules should be displayed prominently in the room and be referred to often.

Activity

After several discussions, the students could be encouraged to draw pictures illustrating how following or not following the rules either facilitated or impeded the discussion.

*3. Contributing to the discussion

A. Recognizing the value of all contributions

Activity 2

Each child in the class is given a picture that will either fit into a picture of a zoo or a farm. (Each picture could have a piece of felt on the back so that it can be used on a felt board). Each child has a turn to tell about his picture and add it either under the zoo side or the farm. This activity gives each child an opportunity to contribute and they can see the finished product; a picture of a zoo and a farm.

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B. Taking the responsibility to contribute

Activity 2

The Popcorn Game - A general question such as "What is your favorite T.V. program?", is given to the group. The children sit on the floor "in the pan". Each child may pop up and give his answer. He may only pop up once. The game is completed when all the popcorn is "popped", and each child has contributed.

C. Responding to other contributions

(1) Verbal

Activity 2

Train Game - this is a formal lesson on keeping to the point. The class is given a topic for discussion. A train track is set up with five stations. As a student contributes to the discussion, if he keeps to the point the train can move along the track. If he does off the topic there is a train wreck and the train goes back one station. The object is to conduct the discussion without going off the track.

(2) Non-verbal

Activity 2

Prior to the class, the teacher should prepare some activity cards showing stick figures or pictures demonstrating some of the following behaviors: happy, sad, crying, eating, drinking, fear, fatigue, physical hurt, disagreement, co-operation or sharing.

Each child who receives a card will act out the emotion (non-verbally) to a second child. The second child will then respond non-verbally to that behavior. The teacher may then ask for other children who feel that they have a different response to the same emotion or behavior to act out their responses.. At the end of each performance, the class may wish to discuss which response was the most appropriate.

*4. Active listening

A. Students should listen for a specific purpose

Activity 2

Before listening to a story or tape, the children are given specific facts and information to listen for. Then, after listening, discussion should take place using this specific information. This can also be used for listening for the main idea, etc.

*5. Learning to co-operate

Activity 2

Blocks - Divide the class into groups which sit in a circle. Each member receives the same number of blocks. The group must construct a house using all the blocks. Each person places his own blocks, but may take advice from the group.

6. Setting clear goals

*Note to the teacher

Prior to the discussion, the teacher will decide which of the following types of discussion best fits the subject at hand:

1. simple recitation
2. inductive questioning
3. open-ended questions
4. problem-solving

At the beginning of each discussion, the teacher should clearly define the purpose for the discussion so that the students understand what the topic is and that they are to stick to that topic.

7. Discussion with a direction (not introduced until 10th grade)

8. Arriving at a conclusion

A. Reaching a majority opinion

Activity 2

Given a problem such as "What refreshments will we have for our party?" the class should be able to discuss the problem and come up with a decision that is favored by the majority of the group.

EVALUATION 2

A student must have certain prerequisite skills in order to learn discussion skills. The development of listening, speaking, and several social skills is necessary if students are to develop their discussion skills.

The social skills and attitudes which need to be developed and emphasized K-1 include:

1. Promoting a favorable self-concept
2. Good listening habits
3. Clear expression of ideas
4. Coping with emotions
5. Willingness to disclose oneself

At the K-1 levels there are three basic types of evaluation which may be utilized:

1. Teacher evaluation of individual students
2. Student self-evaluation
3. Group evaluation

As most activities at these levels are teacher-directed, the committee feels that the types of evaluation used should be at the discretion of the teacher. However, by grade three the students should have mastered sufficient basic discussion skills so that a teacher could specifically measure student ability to use these skills.

Example: The student could listen to a tape or dialogue of a conversation and be able to determine if the participants were keeping to the point.

Teacher's Role

The teacher's role in conducting a discussion is an extremely important one for which few of us have been adequately trained. Not only is the teacher responsible for teaching the students the skills necessary for discussion but he or she must be skilled in discussion.

Prior to a discussion the teacher must establish an atmosphere that fosters an open interchange of ideas. This can be done through room arrangement (informal, so that students can see other, with the teacher as a member of the group), teacher attitude, and activities designed to promote group feeling.

Good questioning is the key to success in any discussion. The teacher's role is to foster honest expression of opinion, probe for reasoning behind opinions, encourage students to comment on and challenge each others reasoning, and pose questions that focus on the issues being discussed. For example in a problem solving discussion the teacher might ask some of the following questions:

1. What are the best reasons for and against various courses of action? Why are these the best courses?

2. What is the principle underlying the proposed decision?

3. Is the recommended action consistent with the student's ideals?

It is the committee's hope that the following suggestions and explanations will prove useful to the teacher as they attempt the dual responsibility of teaching themselves discussion skills at the same time they are attempting to pass this knowledge on to their students.

Eight Basic Discussion Skills

1. Getting acquainted and establishing trust

   The teacher must himself display an attitude of trust. If the teacher displays an attitude of tolerance and acceptance toward student responses, stduents will soon learn to treat each other in the same manner.

2. Organizing for action

   A. Maintaining order within the group

      At the beginning group organization is teacher directed. Together with the group he or she sets up rules for discussion, clarifies the subject of the discussion and serves to keep the discussion going. The teacher should encourage students to develop a good concept of what discussion involves, establishing a good feeling for the rules, listening, taking turns, and keeping to the point.

B. Introduction to the roles taken by the members of a discussion group.

It is the responsibility of the junior-senior high teacher to present to the student the various roles played by the members of a discussion group. In grade seven the students are introduced to the roles of initiator, clarifier, summarizer, evaluator, contributor and recorder. The remaining roles of encourager and harmonizer will be introduced in grade ten.

INITIATOR - gets the discussion under way, helps the group organize itself, keeps the group moving steadily toward its goal;

CONTRIBUTOR - offers facts, opinions and experiences which might aid the group in solving the problem;

CLARIFIER - raises questions about contributions that are unclear, asks for definitions of vague or ambiguous terms, requests additional information;

SUMMARIZER - points out the relationships between contributions, summarizes where the group stands on an issue (then checks with the group to make sure he is accurate);

EVALUATOR - shows the group how well they are moving toward accomplishing their goal, points out problems they are having in working together;

RECORDER - keeps a record of the main points of the discussion, writes down the group product if it is to be submitted to the teacher, helps refresh the group's memory about what has been covered in a discussion;

ENCOURAGER - tries to get all members of the group to contribute by showing interest in what they say, praising their contributions, being friendly;

HARMONIZER - helps to relieve tension and settle disputes between other mebmers, helps the group work out its disagreements, suggests compromises.

The students should be made aware that one person may assume several roles during a discussion. The teacher should then encourage the students to use each of these roles in their class discussions. It may be helpful to stop the discussion at times to enable the students to identify the roles which have been assumed and to recognize how their use has affected the discussion.

3. Contributing to the discussion

A. Recognizing the value of all contributions

B. Taking the responsibility to contribute

During the class discussion the teacher should observe the work

of the group carefully, and note the following:

1. How did the group pattern their contributions?

2. Was order kept and how?

3. What means were used to encourage the more reluctant members to contribute?

The teacher should not always feel that it is necessary to step in if the group is slow in starting. The pressure of silence may encourage people to contribute. If you find after observing several discussions that certain students dominate the discussion and others sit silently you may find it helpful to place contributing members in one group and non-contributing members in another. This may encourage the silent members to stop relying on the contributors and prompt them to contribute.

C. Responding to other contributions

1. Verbal

If the teacher feels a student's contribution does not relate to the discussion he may wish to interrupt and ask that student to explain how his or her statement relates to previous contributions.

2. Nonverbal

Students should be made aware that some behaviors facilitate while other retard discussion. The committee realizes that as a part of the primary reading and language arts program much emphasis is placed on this skill. However, it is the opinion of the committee that this skill is progressively neglected in the upper grades. We recommend that teachers make students aware of certain actions that can encourage discussion (smiling, nodding, establishing eye contact, sitting complacently, etc.) and that other actions hinder discussion (tapping, yawning, fidgeting, etc.).

The students should be cautioned that the signal may not always be perceived the way that it was meant to be. For example, a yawn may be interpreted as boredom when it is merely a sign of fatigue. A teacher may want to note that some classroom behaviors such as giggling, horseplay, etc. may indicate that the student is feeling threatened by the discussion.

The teacher should encouarge the student to recognize that certain body positions have a language of their own. For example, when a student wishes to contribute to the discussion, he will frequently raise his head and lean forward slightly. Secondly, folded arms and downcast eyes may indicate disapproval, boredom, fear of being called upon, complete lack of interest, or merely the fact that the child does not understand the dicussion and is ashamed to admit it. When a student sits up, looks at the leader expectantly while gathering his materials, these are signals that the student needs a break.

4. Active listening

5. Learning to co-operate

6. Setting clear goals

As a student gains discussion skills, he will increase his ability to recognize issues, types of discussion, and the purposes of discussion. Prior to seventh grade it is mainly the teacher's responsibility to see that each discussion has a clear goal.

Classroom discussion will take one of the following five forms:

1) simple recitation
2) inductive questioning
3) open-ended questioning
4) problem solving
5) debate

With the exception of debate, we expect the students to be able to participate in each of these forms but recognition of the terms is not necessary until seventh grade.

The teacher's role will vary depending on the type of discussion used.

Type of Discussion	Teacher's Role
1. Simple recitation	1. Asks questions
2. Inductive questioning	2. Carefully plans sequence of questions to help students arrive at a concept.
3. Open-ended discussion	3. Provides initial focus for discussion, accepts all responses, and refrains from evaluation while encouraging clarification when necessary.
4. Problem solving	4. Reminds students of purpose of discussion, points out similarities and differences among points of view, and charts information to be used for purposes of comparison and contrast.
5. Debate	5. Teaches format of proper debate and acts as resource person in helping students find information

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The teacher should keep in mind the following purposes of discussion:

1. to solve problems
2. to air one's opinion
3. to find out what others think
4. to clarify one's point of view
5. to re-evaluate one's point of view
6. to gain feelings of acceptance and belonging
7. to persuade

Beginning in tenth grade and continuing through twelfth grade the teacher is responsible for reinforcing the student's ability to recognize issues, types of discussion and the purposes of discussion.

7. Discussing with direction

In most cases it is the teacher's responsibility to guide the direction of a discussion prior to the tenth grade. The teacher must recognize and encourage the following to take place during classroom discussions:

a. being sensistive to other's responses

b. stating the issue over which there is disagreement

c. pursuing issues systematically

d. making explicit transitional statements

e. recognizing the relevance of statements to the issue

f. two level thinking - making pertinent contributions and assuming a role in the discussion

In the beginning the teacher may find it necessary to verbally step in to direct the discussion. However, we hope that as time goes on and the students become more proficient, the teacher will take less of an active role.

8. Arriving at a conclusion

The simplest type of conclusion is the majority opinion. Although the teacher and students may feel uncomfortable with open-ended conclusions, because of our conditioning in expecting an answer, this type of conclusion is useful in encouraging student to air their personal opinions. Because the authoritarian conclusion stifles open discussion, this is the type lease recommended. Consensus is the hardest conclusion to achieve. The teacher and the students must learn to become aware of those persons who disagree with the majority. They must be specifically alert for dissenters who are ignored, especially the quieter members who disagree but do not state their opposition vociferously.

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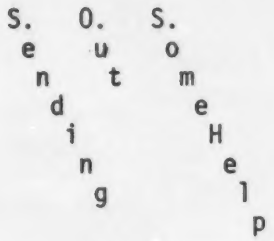


INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT - Response Forms

In order to continue to develop, correct, and improve the Discussion Skills Packet (D.S.P.) and keep open the very necessary lines for your suggestions and possible appeals for assistance we have developed this form to be used by the classroom teacher.

If, after having read and/or used the D.S.P. you have any constructive suggestions to aid us all in the continuing development of this packet, please fill in the section provided. We all need help (the committee more than others).

If you have had success in the use of the D.S.P. please fill in the section provided. Way to Go. Who Loves You Baby.

If you have had an unpleasant experience in using the D.S.P., please take two aspirin and fill in the section provided. Excedrin Headache #26.

If you have any activities or evaluations that you have developed in your classroom that may be of use to your fellow educators, please fill in the section provided. Show off!

And please, if you are having any difficulty in using or understanding this Discussion Skills Packet, do not push it aside. Let us know how we can be of help to you for this is also the function of the committee and we will not leave you hanging (too long). As you will note, there is a section on this form for an answer (hopefully) from the committee or at least a reply to let you know someone out there cares.

If you have no need of this sheet, congratulations, and please pass it on to someone less fortunate.

RESPONSE FORM #1

Teacher's Name _____

School _____

I. Where do we need help? (excluding the obvious answer) Please fill in your constructive suggestions in the following areas.

A. Skills

Did we miss any? Any problems with ours? Don't forget to check the flow chart.

_____

_____

B. Activities

What's happening? Is your room still in one piece? Any students missing? How's your headache?

_____

_____

_____

C. Evaluation

Does it evaluate? Is it right on? Did you check the flow chart?

II. Way to go! We told you it would work. Please tell us the areas or activities that worked well for your class or classes or classi, whatever.

_____

_____

_____

_____

III. Excedrin Headache #26. Sit down and tell us all about it. But you didn't check your flow chart or maybe your gas tank. Remember we still love you.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

IV. Show and Tell time. We would appreciate your experience and knowledge in areas you have succeeded and we have missed. Tell it like it is!

V. Help! Tell us what the problem is and if Dear Abby can't handle it we will light a candle for you. Tell us what the specific problem area is if you know, if you don't know, ask your neighbor.

VI. Committee's Reply

If this doesn't work, punt, play your trump, or move to a cave.

RESPONSE FORM #2

The information we need from you for assistance and continued improvement is the following:

I. SKILLS

1. Which skill(s) were you working with from the ones suggested in the Discussion Skills Packet? (D.S.P.)

2. What activity(ies) suggested in the D.S.P. did you use in connection with that skill?

3. Were there any skills needed as a prerequisite but not mastered at this grade level which impeded the successof that activity(ies)?

4. Was the activity(ies) suggested in the D.S.P. used by you successfully?

5. Why do you feel the activity(ies) were successful?

6. Did the activity(ies) suggested in the D.S.P. and used by you prove unsuccessful?

7. Why do you feel the activity(ies) may not have succeeded?

8. May we have any constructive suggestions of yours on this particular skill and activity?

9. For that matter, may we have any constructive suggestions on any part of the D.S.P. such as misplaced skills (check flow chart= misplaced activities, etc.

10. What successful activities have you developed in your class for the students which we have overlooked and can be of benefit to us all?

Your Name _____

Your School _____

Subject area. Skill(s) and Activities used.

_____

_____

RESPONSE FORM #3

II. EVALUATION

1. If the acitvity(ies) in the D.S.P. had an evaluation did you use it?

2. Was the evaluation(s) useful in connection with the activity(ies)?

3. Did the evaluation(s) prove not to be useful for the activity(ies)?

4. Why do you feel it was not useful?

5. If the activity(ies) used from the D.S.P. did not have an evaluation, did you use your own?

6. What was your evaluation?

7. Did your evaluation prove successful and useful?

8. May we have your constructive suggestions on the evaluation of the activity(ies) or any others in the D.S.P.?

Your Name _____

Your School _____

Subject area. Skill(s) and Activity(ies) used.

_____

VALUES & MORAL REASONING

Introduction

The development of moral values is unique in the Social Studies skills development in that the process is entirely individual, and that progress in the clarification (realization) of one's set of values cannot be taught in the usual sense of the word. I.e., a student cannot be taught a value, but rather he or she will (1) come to a realization of what his personal values are, and (2) become cognizant of and receptive to the values of others and thereby enlarge his own value structure.

Historically, values education has been a part of the curriculum in one form or another whether it be in show-and-tell sessions, or in class meetings in which rule infractions or classroom problems are discussed. For years teachers have been charged with the task of developing honesty, good citizenship, patriotism and the other values held common in our society. The thrust of this segment of our Guide is to assist the teacher in developing a systematic approach to values education by formulating a program of values education and by providing models appropriate for the students at each grade level.

There are a number of important factors that should be kept in mind by the teacher. First, the teacher provides the model, but not the answers. Secondly, valuing is a continuous process and is best achieved by a step-by-step process at the levels familiar to the student. It is, therefore, necessary that teachers use the models assigned to their grade level so that sequential exposure may be achieved.

Thirdly, children develop and clarify their values at different rates and, as with other goals of the Curriculum Project, no grade level will be responsible for the final completion of a set of values. The task of the teacher is to provide experiences for promoting moral development within his/her own grade level.

The Project has utilized three techniques for promoting moral development and/or the clarification values. These three techniques are described under Skill Description in the following pages of this Guide. If further assistance or instruction in the "how to" of implementing valuing is needed, two audio-visual teaching aids are available; "A Strategy For Teaching Values" (Guidance Associates), and a more extensive study, "Teacher Training in Values Education - A Workshop" (also produced by Guidance Associates.) These aids are available through the Social Studies Office at Cortland Jr.-Sr. High School.

In order to make Values Education an effective and continuing process, a <u>minimum</u> of four dilemmas should be used each year, making sure to utilize both the Moral Reasoning and the Values Analysis strategies. The Values Clarification strategy should be used whenever appropriate.

Finally, it should be noted that the development of values is <u>closely</u> associated with the development of Discussion Skills, and the information contained in the Discussion Skills section should be reviewed and implemented before a values lesson is initiated.

Values and Moral Reasoning

Skill Description

Three techniques are to be used in the development of values and moral reasoning in our Social Studies Program. They have been implemented in the curriculum workshops and are briefly described herein.

(1) Moral Reasoning Strategy - The strategy is based on Kohlberg's stages of moral reasoning in the development of Values Education.

KOHLBERG STAGE DESCRIPTION

Level One: Pre-Conventional

At this level an individual's moral reasoning results from the consequences of actions (punishment, reward, exchange of favors) and from the physical power of those in positions of authority.

Stage One: Decisions result from a blind obedience to power, an attempt to avoid punishment, or an attempt to seek rewards.

Stage Two: Decisions result from a desire to satisfy one's own needs and occasionally the needs of others. Individuals view reciprocity as a matter of "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours." Reasoning involves little consideration of loyalty, gratitude, or justice.

Level Two: Conventional

At this level an individual's moral reasoning involves consideration of the interest of others (family and peers) and a desire to maintain, respect, support, and justify the existing social order.

Stage Three: Decisions result from a desire to pleas and help others and receive their approval in return. Behavior is frequently judged by intention - "he means well" becomes important for the first time.

Stage Four: Decisions result from a desire to maintain the existing authority, rules, and social order. Right behavior consists of doing one's duty.

Level Three: Post-Conventional

At this level an individual's moral reasoning incorporates moral values and principles which have validity and application beyond the authority of groups. Moral reasoning becomes more comprehensive and reflects universal principles.

Stage Five: Decisions result from recognition of an individual's rights within a society which has a social contract.

As a result, the individual's reasoning emphasizes the "legal point of view," but with an emphasis upon the possibility of changing laws.

Stage Six: Decisions result from an obligation to universal ethical principles which apply to all mankind. The universal principles of justice, reciprocity and equality of human rights, and respect for the dignity of human beings as individuals serve as a basis for individual reasoning.

(2) The Values Analysis Strategy - This approach is based on Dewey's Reflective Morality Process and is concerned with the process by which a student makes moral decisions. The strategy forces the student to examine many alternative decisions before he/she actually is allowed to make their own decision concerning a moral dilemma. This process is excellent training for making real life decisions. The goal of this approach is to develop sophistication in the decision making process.

(3) Values Clarification[1]

The values-clarification approach tries to help young people answer some of these questions and build their own value system. It is not a new approach. There have always been parents, teacher, and other educators who have sought ways to help young people think through values issues for themselves, and they have done this in many ways.

However, the values-clarification approach is more systematic and more widely applicable. Unlike other theoretical approaches to values, it is not concerned with the content of people's values, but the process of valuing. The focus is on how people come to hold certain beliefs and establish certain behavior.

Valuing is composed of seven sub-processes:

PRIZING one's beliefs and behaviors
1. prizing and cherishing
2. publicly affirming, when appropriate

CHOOSING one's beliefs and behaviors
3. choosing from alternatives
4. choosing after consideration of consequences
5. choosing freely

ACTING on one's beliefs
6. acting
7. acting with a pattern, consistency and repetition

Thus, the values-clarification approach does not aim to instill any particular set of values. Rather, the goal of the values-clarification approach is to help students utilize the above seven processes of valuing in their own lives; to apply these valuing processes to already formed beliefs and behavior patterns and to those still emerging.

[1]Adapted from Simon, Sidney, et.al. Values Clarification A Handbook of Practical Strategies For Teachers and Students, Hart Publishing Co., Inc. New York, NY, 1972, pp. 18-20.

To accomplish this, the teacher uses approaches which help students become aware of the beliefs and behaviors they prize and would be willing to stand up for in and out of the classroom. He uses materials and methods which encourage students to consider alternative modes of thinking and acting. Students learn to weigh the pros and cons and the consequences of the various alternatives. The teacher also helps the students to consider whether their actions match their stated beliefs and if not, how to bring the two into closer harmony. Finally, he tries to give students options, in and out of class; for only when students begin to make their own choices and evaluate the consequences, do they develop their own values.

Similarities and Differences Among Approaches of Moral Development, Values Analysis & Values Clarification

Similarities:

All are concerned with increasing personal awareness of the valuing process

All are concerned with helping people cope with their values, resolve conflicts and live better lives.

Moral development and values analysis are both concerned with the reasoning process.

All approaches are concerned with increasing the adequacy of students' thinking and promoting consistency between judgements and actions.

Differences:

Moral Development vs. Values Analysis

In Moral Development the first step is to make a decision - hopefully with a division in the group and then to debate the decision. This will require the students to justify their reasoning and, in turn, will promote moral development through six stages of development. Discussions in this strategy will concern only moral issues.

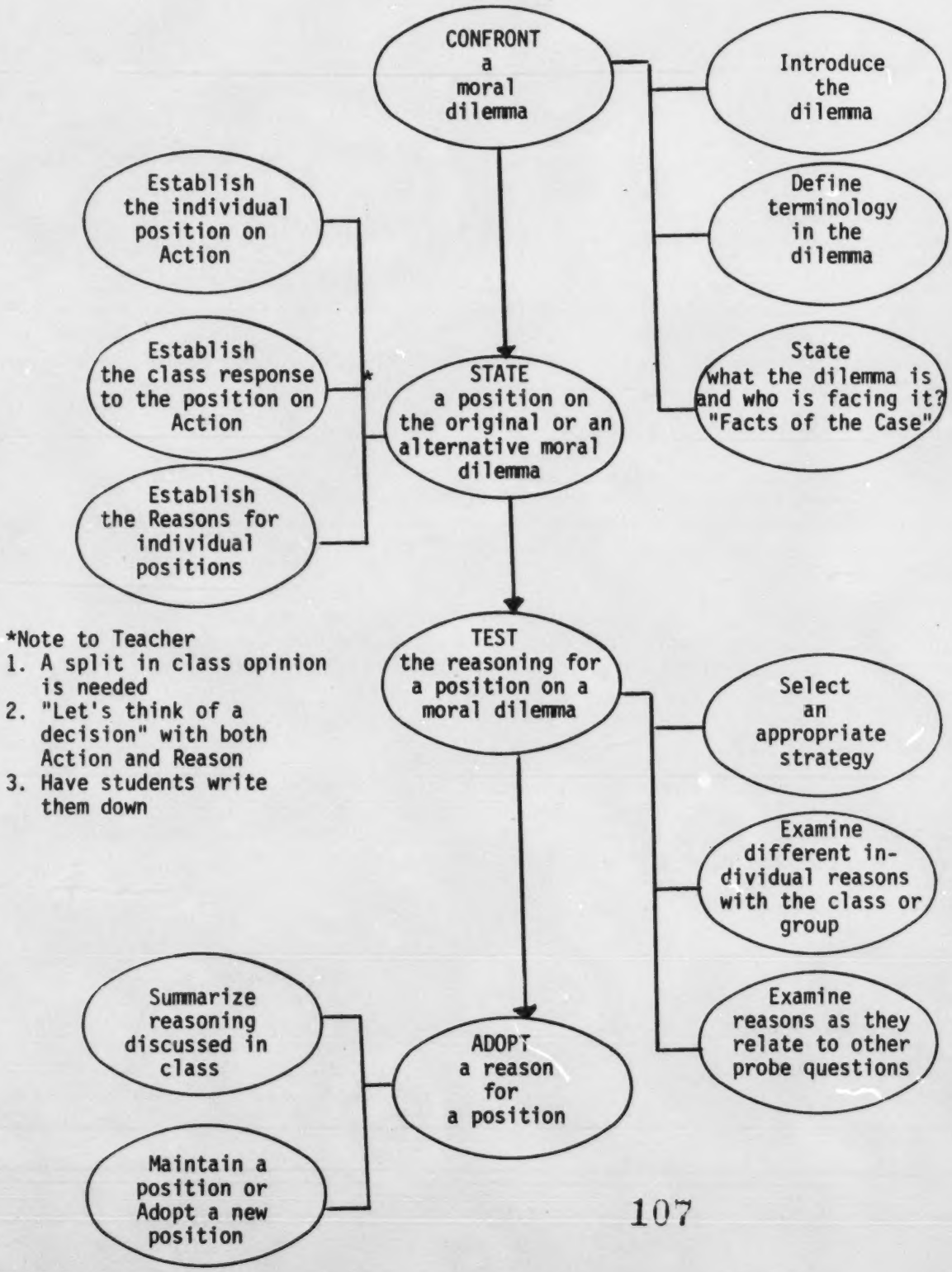
Values Analysis encourages considering all the alternatives and consequences in a step-by-step, scientific approach prior to making a decision. It is designed to encourage logical thinking, and discussions may also include social issues.

Moral Development vs. Values Clarification

These approaches differ in their thinking about values. Kohlberg feels that, in a pluralistic society, students need to develop increasingly adequate ways of thinking to resolve conflicts, whereas Simon's theory is based upon a feeling that values are personal and relative to a stiuation.

Moral Development	Values Clarification
1. Deals with only moral issues	1. Deals with moral and non-moral issues
2. "Should" questions	2. "Would" questions
3. Must justify reasoning to increase development	3. Don't have to justify reasoning
4. Goal is to clarify and develop problem solving skills	4. Goal is to help students to know themselves, communicate and build a sense of community.

DIAGRAM OF THE TEACHING PROCESS
FOR TEACHING A MORAL DILEMMA - MORAL REASONING


CONFRONT a moral dilemma
Introduce the dilemma
Define terminology in the dilemma
State what the dilemma is and who is facing it? "Facts of the Case"
Establish the individual position on Action
Establish the class response to the position on Action
Establish the Reasons for individual positions
STATE a position on the original or an alternative moral dilemma
TEST the reasoning for a position on a moral dilemma
Select an appropriate strategy
Examine different individual reasons with the class or group
Examine reasons as they relate to other probe questions
Summarize reasoning discussed in class
Maintain a position or Adopt a new position
ADOPT a reason for a position

*Note to Teacher
1. A split in class opinion is needed
2. "Let's think of a decision" with both Action and Reason
3. Have students write them down

STEP 1 Confronting a moral dilemma

Step 1 consists of three activities. First, the teacher presents the dilemma to the students by having them read the dilemma silently or aloud. Second, the teacher helps students to clarify the meaning of any terms or words which are used in the dilemma and which some students may not understand. Finally, the teacher helps students to confront the moral aspects of the dilemma by asking them to state the moral issue which the dilemma raises.

STEP 2 Stating a position on the original or alternative dilemmas.

In this step, the teacher ascertains the division within the class about what the major protagonist in the dilemma ought to do. Each dilemma ends with a question such as this one: Should Fritz let the prisoners escape? In order to teach for cognitive moral development, the members of the class must divide over the answer to this question. Some teachers ask students to indicate their feelings by holding up their hands while they shut their eyes so that the votes of others will not influence them. Other teachers ask several students to express their opinions and the reasons for their opinions and then ask for a vote either openly or in private. If at least a third of the students in the class elect each position, the teacher moves immediately to Step 3, skipping the alternative dilemmas.

If at least a third of the members of the class do not line up on each side of the issue, the teacher introduces an alternative dilemma from the lesson plan to establish a division among the students. One set of alternative dilemmas has been designed in case the class agrees that the protagonist SHOULD take a particular course of action. Another set should be used if the class agrees that the protagonist SHOULD NOT take a particular course of action. The teacher should make sure that the students understand the terms used in an alternative dilemma and that they see the moral issue involved. Then the teacher should determine how the class divides on the issue, and proceed to Step 3.

STEP 3 Testing the reasoning for a position on a moral dilemma.

Next, the teacher begins to help students test their reasoning by choosing an appropriate method of class deployment. All four methods of class deployment promote maximum student-to-student interaction. During the testing stage, students examine, analyze, and compare their own reasons with reasons offered by other students. The teacher keeps the attention of the class focused on reasoning rather than on what a protagonist should do. Probe questions provided in the lesson plan help students to examine their reasoning in a variety of circumstances. The deployment strategies are:

Strategy A

Divide the class into groups of five to eight students. Each group should consist of individuals who agree about the appropriate action on a dilemma. Have the members of each group work out a list of reasons for holding their position. After the groups have worked for ten to fifteen minutes on this initial task,

have each one select three reasons which reflect the best reasoning for their position on the moral dilemma and arrange these in priority. You should move from group to group, helping each group develop its list of reasons. Ask the recorder from each group to report on the final list of "best" reasons. Since you will have several groups working on listing reasons for opposing positions on the moral dilemma, a general class discussion focused on moral reasoning should follow reports from the groups. Encourage students to challenge one another's reasoning and to help focus the dialogue on why individuals believe one reason is more appropriate than another. The discussion will often focus on two or three conflicting reasons. If the general class discussion becomes too repetitive or loses momentum, use a probe question or an alternative dilemma to refocus the discussion or to check the consistency of those students arguing a particular position. Ask students who indicated they were undecided or students who are not active in the discussion to summarize the dialogue or offer their opinion of the discussion.

Strategy B

Organize the class into small groups with each group including members who do not agree about the action of the dilemma. Ask the members of each mixed group to discuss their positions and the reasons for their positions in order to produce a list containing the two best reasons on each side of the issue. One of the objectives of this strategy is to have students discuss the dilemma from each position on action with the task of the group focused on reasoning rather than on the initial position. A general class discussion should follow group reports of discussion. With this strategy you may find it helpful to have groups record their best reasons on the chalkboard so that everyone can see different ways of thinking about the dilemma.

Strategy C

Ask all students in the class to write out three reasons why they hold the particular position that they do on the dilemma. Choose four students to debate, two from each position on the dilemma. Let the debate begin among the four protagonists. After they have debated a few minutes, invite four additional students, two from each position, to enter the debate in order to add additional reasons for the position on the dilemma. Encouarge the debate to continue for a few minutes. During the debate ask the students not in the debate to summarize or paraphrase the reasoning used in the debate. Also encourage students listening to the debate to question members in the debate and to interject reasons which they have written down but the debaters have not used. The debate format provides a method for verbally listing a series of reasons. You may decide to continue the class in several ways:

1) if the debate among the eight students and the involvement of the rest of the class seems productive, you can continue the debate.
2) You can establish four debating groups in the class and give each group the task of determining the best reasons for a proposed action.
3) You can establish four groups and give them the task of summarizing the reasons offered during the debate and decide which reasons seemed most appropriate.
4) You could guide the debate format into a general class discussion focused around the probe questions.

Strategy D

After determining a class division on action, divide the class into groups of five to eight students whose members agree about the appropriate action on a dilemma. Have members of each group develop a list of reasons for holding their position. The teacher should move from group to group helping students to complete this task. Give each group from ten to fifteen minutes to develop its reasons. Each student should write down the reasons listed in the group.

Reorganize the groups so that half of a group holding one position exchanges places with half of a group which stated an opposing position on action. Have the members of the new groups complete the following tasks:

1) Report the reasons developed in the previous discussion to the other half of the group.
2) Discuss the reasons. Each half of the new group should challenge the reasons offered by the other half and ask questions about why they think these reasons are good ones.
3) Each half of the new group should then meet for from three to five minutes to decide which reason the other half offered is the best one.
4) The groups should report their decision to the class with specific emphasis on why each sub-group selected a particular reason which others had offered.

You may want to prepare a group task sheet which explains the small group task for this strategy. Allow sufficient time for the groups to complete the tasks. Use probe questions with the entire class if any time remains after all groups have reported.

STEP 4 Adopting a reason for a position.

During the final stage of the teaching process the teacher helps students to summarize the reasoning discussed during the class period. The teacher aids the students to either affirm their original postiion using more adequate reasoning, or to adopt a new position based on reasons presented in the class discussion.

COMMON PROBLEMS IN TEACHING THE MORAL REASONING STRATEGY

1. TIME DISTRIBUTION AMONG THE STEPS OF THE STRATEGY
2. SKIPPING STEPS
3. NOT DEPLOYING WITH CLEAR TASKS, RECORDERS
4. POOR SELECTION OF DEPLOYMENT STRATEGY
5. TOO FEW OR NO PERCEPTION CHECKS ESPECIALLY ON TASKS
6. DISCUSSION LEADING INTO STUDENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWING
7. CONTENT DIVERSIONS (NON-MORAL FOCUS IN THE DISCUSSION)
8. POOR PROBES OR INAPPROPRIATE USE OF PROBES

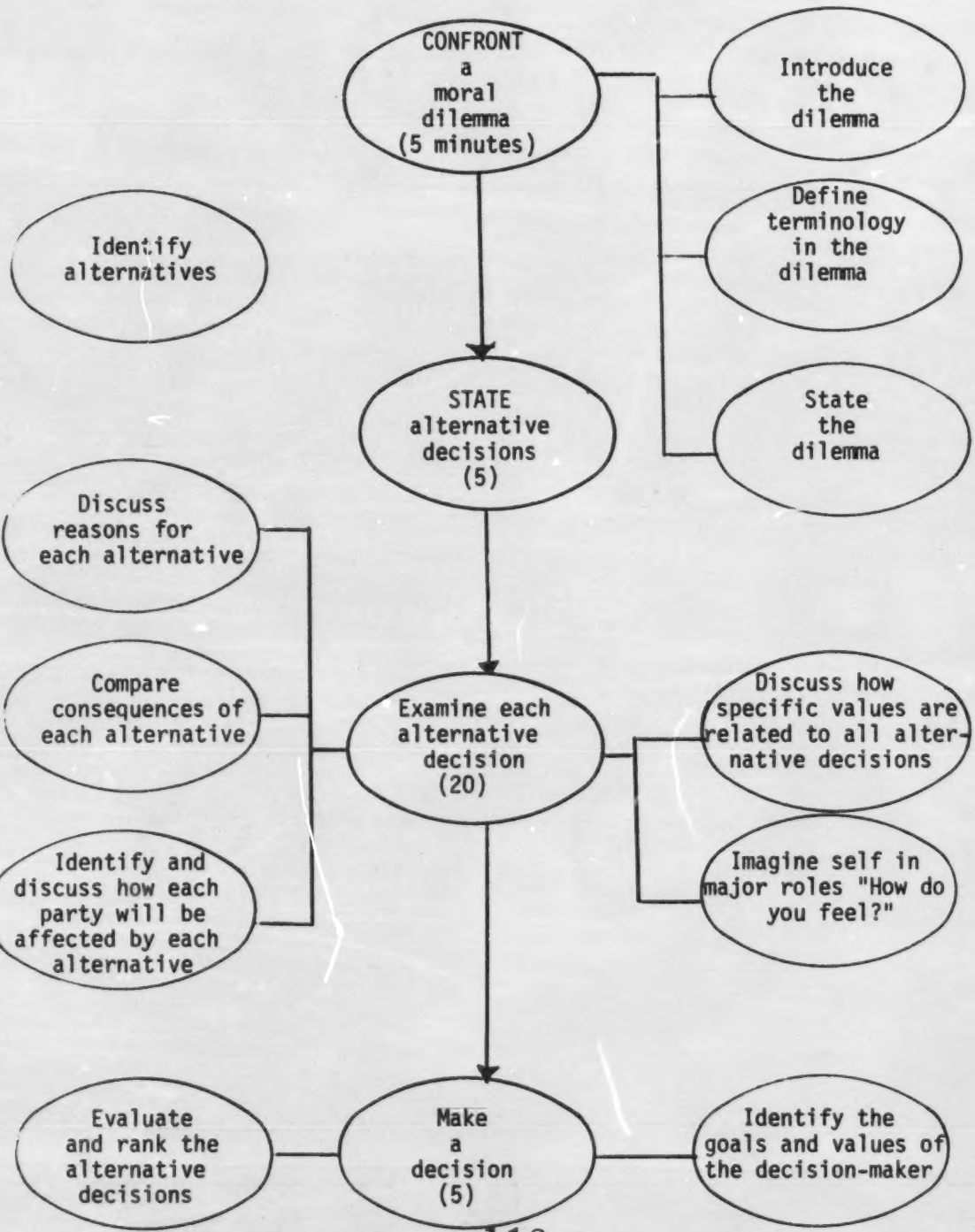
MORAL DILEMMAS TO BE USED WITH THE KOHLBERG APPROACH

Sound Filmstrips for Primary Years - Guidance Associates Kits*

1. What Do You Do About Rules
2. Trouble With Truth

*Complete A-V Kits are found in Parker School and are available through inter-school mail.

THE VALUES ANALYSIS STRATEGY


CONFRONT a moral dilemma (5 minutes)
Introduce the dilemma
Define terminology in the dilemma
State the dilemma
Identify alternatives
STATE alternative decisions (5)
Discuss reasons for each alternative
Compare consequences of each alternative
Identify and discuss how each party will be affected by each alternative
Examine each alternative decision (20)
Discuss how specific values are related to all alternative decisions
Imagine self in major roles "How do you feel?"
Evaluate and rank the alternative decisions
Make a decision (5)
Identify the goals and values of the decision-maker

The Decision-Making Steps Explained

1. Identify and define dilemma.

   Usually students will read the dilemma or it may be read orally to the entire group. Once the teacher is sure that students understand all the terms in the situation and they understand the nature of the dilemma (why it is a moral dilemma), students may form small groups for the actual lesson. Appropriate audio-visual materials may be used if desired. The class could listen to a tape recording of the dilemma as an alternative presentation.

2. List all possible choices, their consequences, and the persons directly affected, and how affected.

   There are always two choices which should be obvious in each dilemma. Upon further consideration and discussion, other alternatives will most likely appear. Each choice will have one or more consequences, and several persons may be directly affected by a particular choice.

3. Put yourself in the place of each person each decision most affects.

   The key concept here is objectivity; while difficult to attain, the student is able to recognize that there may be other value systems operating which are different from his own.

4. Compare the values of each alternative and rank them.

   Depending on the alternative under consideration, certain values associated with that particular alternative will emerge. They may be ranked in the order of importance or worth to that particular individual.

5. Make a decision and act upon it.

   This is the summation of the process. An important consideration here is that the student does not reveal his decision to others if he so desires. If an intelligent and logical decision is to be made, the importance of going through the preceding four steps as thoroughly as possible should be obvious.

MORAL DILEMMAS TO BE USED WITH THE VALUES ANALYSIS STRATEGY

1. The Muddy Pants
2. Whooo Is Wise?
3. The Broken Toy
4. A Very Wiggly Worm
5.
6.

THE MUDDY PANTS

The Dilemma:

Tommy wore his brand new pants to school today. He had promised his mother that the pants would not get dirty. At noon time, Tommy went on the playground with the rest of his class. The ground was a little muddy in spots so Tommy was being extra careful not to slip. Suddenly, Carl bumped into him knocking him to the ground and Tommy's new pants got all muddy. What should Tommy do?

WHOOO IS WISE?

The Dilemma

Mark noticed that the teacher had gotten a new rubber stamp to use on the children's papers. The teacher was now on the other side of the room helping some children and the rest of his classmates seemed to be busy working. No one would see him if he went to the desk and took a quick, close look. As Mark reached for the rubber stamp, his arm hit the teacher's special owl statuette and it fell over, breaking in two. Mark rushed to his seat. He knew the teacher would ask how the owl got broken. What should Mark do?

THE BROKEN TOY

The Dilemma

Susan brought in a favority toy. The toy was fragile. The teacher suggested to Susan that the toy be placed somewhere where it would be safe. Susan decided to leave the toy on her desk for just one more minute. Jack was going to sharpen his pencil, when he tripped. Jack fell against Susan's desk. The favorite toy toppled to the floor and broke. Susan began to cry and shout at Jack. Who was the one at fault?

A VERY WIGGLY WORM

The Dilemma

David comes crying to the teacher at recess complaining that Jonathan has hurt him. David has marks on him to prove it. Upon questioning both children, the teacher hears Jonathan say that David threw a worm at him first. David is a quiet boy who has never started a fight with anyone in the room. David says he was just showing his worm to Jonathan. When more questions are asked Jonathan blurts out, "Well he was going to throw it at me!"

Jonathan is a little older than the other children. He is bigger and stronger. He has a special problem because he stutters.

Guidelines in Teaching Values Clarification

The teacher should:

1. Follow the seven basic steps of the strategy.
2. Generate data; then analyze.
3. Assure students of privacy of responses, yet encourage sharing. The "I pass" technique should be utilized.
4. Allow activity to happen, then discuss (i.e. debrief).
5. Create a low threat or non-threatening situation.
6. Avoid moralizing or supplying the "right" answers.
7. Create a climate of acceptance.
8. Be non-judgemental.
9. Get involved in the process.
10. Integrate strategies with content.

Method #3 - Values Clarification

Teacher's Guide and Suggested Activities - Grades K-6

1. Values Grid
2. Public Interview
3. Interview Whip and Interview Chain
4. All About Me
5. Magic Box

VALUES GRID

PURPOSE

The Values Grid usually drives home the point that few of our beliefs or actions fit all seven of the valuing processes. This activity indicates what steps we must take in order to develop stronger and clearer values.

PROCEDURE

The teacher either gives students, or asks them to construct, a "values grid," as shown below:

ISSUE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
Etc.							

Then the teacher and the students name some general issues, such as Vietnam, water pollution, population control, abortion, race relations, a specific election, a school issue, etc. The students list these issues on the lines on the left-hand side of their papers. Next to each of these general issues the student is to privately write a few key words that summarize for him his position or stand on that issue.

The seven numbers heading the columns on the right-hand side of the paper represent the following seven questions:

1. Are you proud of (do you prize or cherish) your position?
2. Have you publicly affirmed your position
3. Have you chosen your position from alternatives?
4. Have you chosen your position after thoughtful consideration of the pros and cons and consequences?
5. Have you chosen your position freely?
6. Have you acted on or done anything about your beliefs?
7. Have you acted with repetition, pattern or consistence on this issue?

The teacher can read these seven questions to the students, or write them on the board, or the students can write the key words (those that are underlined) at the top of each column. The students then answer each of the seven questions in relation to each issue. If they have a positive response to the question on top, they put a check in the appropriate box. If they cannot answer the question affirmatively, they leave the box blank.

TO THE TEACHER

After they have completed marking their grids, the students can form trios, with each student discussing one of the issues, his position on it, and how it did or didn't meet the seven valuing processes. Your students have undoubtedly engaged in many discussions of the issues they have listed in the values grid. It is worthwhile for the students to note how the approach here differs from discussions they may have had previously. It should become apparent that here they are not being called on to defend the content of their beliefs, but are rather being asked to evaluate how they arrived at their convictions and how firm they are in their beliefs.

The students should understand the seven processes, which are the basis for the values strategies they are doing. Many teachers post the seven processes permanently in the classroom.

The students might want to save their papers and look at them again at some future date. They will be able to see not only whether the content of their beliefs has undergone any change, but more important, whether there have been any changes in the quality and degree of their convictions.

PUBLIC INTERVIEW

PURPOSE

This strategy gives the student center stage in the classroom and the opportunity to publicly affirm and explain his stand on various values issues. Later on, inevitably, the student goes over his answers in his mind and thoughtfully considers what he has said publicly. It is one of the most dramatic values strategies and one of the students' favorites.

PROCEDURE

The teacher asks for volunteers who would like to be interviewed publicly about some of their beliefs, feelings and actions. The volunteers sit at the teacher's desk or in a chair in front of the room, and the teacher moves to the back of the room and asks the questions from there.

The first few times, the teacher reviews the ground rules. The teacher may ask the student any question about any aspect of his life and values. If the student answers the questions, he must answer honestly. However, the student has the option of passing if he does not wish to answer one or more of the questions which the teacher poses. The student can end the interview at any time by simply saying, "Thank you for the interview." In addition, he may, at the completion of the interview ask the teacher any of the same questions that were put to him.

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS
(for general use)

1. Do you get an allowance? What kind? Do you have to do anything for it?

2. Do you go to Sunday school or religion class? Do you enjoy it? Are you getting anything out of it?

3. Does your family do anything together that is fun?

4. If you could be any age, what age would you like to be?

5. Did you go on a vacation this year? If you could go anywhere in the world you wanted to next year, where would you go?

6. Will you be a cigarette smoker? Why?

7. Do you wish you had a larger family or a smaller family, or is your family just the right size?

8. As you look at the world around you, what is something you sometimes wonder about?

THE INTERVIEW WHIP AND INTERVIEW CHAIN

PURPOSE

These two strategies are major variations on the Public Interview (Strategy Number 12). Their purpose is to give students additional opportunities for publicly stating and explaining their views.

PROCEDURE

In the Interview Whip, the teacher "ships" around the classroom, in order or randomly, asking interview questions of each student. He may ask several students the same question, or he may choose to ask a different question each time.

In the Interview Chain, the teacher starts out the chain by addressing an interview question to a student. After answering, that student must then ask another student an interview question, and the chain continued in this manner.

A student may always pass. In the Interview Chain, a student who passes may still ask a question if he wishes. There is never a penalty for passing.

TO THE TEACHER

The questions suggested for Public Interview are just as appropriate for these two strategies. But, as with the Public Interview, many of the best questions come spontaneously, as the interviewer follows his curiosity about the interviewee, or as he gets an idea from an answer given to a previous question.

Below are some examples of Proud Whip questions for younger children:

1. I am proud that on my own I can ...
2. I am proud that I spent my allowance on ...
3. I am proud that when I am scared I ...
4. When I watch TV I am proud that ...
5. I am proud that I made my friend happy by ...
6. I was proud that even when the other kids did ... I ...
7. I am proud that this summer I ...
8. Something my family has done all together this year which made me proud ...
9. I am proud that I use my toys ...
10. I am proud of what I did about ...
11. I am proud when the other kids say that I ...
12. I'm proud that I made ...
13. I'm proud that I helped keep my city clean by ...
14. I am proud that I keep healthy by ...
15. I'm proud that I helped make my school a happier place ...
16. I'm proud that my father (mother) ...

ALL ABOUT ME

PURPOSE

This strategy comes from a fourth grade teacher who asked her students to keep a notebook called, "All About Me." It provides students with an opportunity to think, and make statements, about their lives in a systematic, on-going way. It could be considered another version of the Values Journal or Values Data Bank (Strategy Number 17), and is also similar to Pages for an Autobiography (Strategy Number 36).

PROCEDURE

The teacher has students write a story in their notebooks every other day. Stories are titled:

1. Who Am I?
2. Who Takes Care of Me?
3. I Am Proud ...
4. Someday I Want To Be ...
5. My Funniest Experience
6. If I Could Change the World
7. My Friend

The Unfinished Sentences (Strategy Number 37) provide many ideas for stories.

Occasionally, the students may read their stories aloud to the class, or show them to a friend or to their parents. They may add to them, change them, organize them into an autobiography.

MAGIC BOX

PURPOSE

To help students think about what they value.

PROCEDURE

The teacher tells students about a magic box which is very special. It is capable of making itself very small or very large. Best of all, it can contain anything that the student wants it to contain. The teacher then asks students, "If you came home from school today and found the magic box waiting for you to open, what would be in it? Remember it can have anything you want, tangible or intangible." Students are to write down their answers or tell them to the class.

The teacher might then ask other questions like:

1. What would you want in a magic box for your mother?
2. What would want for your best friend
3. What is the smallest thing you would want?
4. What is the largest thing?
5. What would you want for poor people?

Students are to keep what they write in their Data Banks (Strategy Number 17). After they have done this activity several times, the students might be asked to rank order (Strategy Number 4) the things they want most for themselves. They might also be asked if they have been doing anything to attain these things.

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Seven Important Items To Remember

1. A teacher leads a class discussion of a moral dilemma by asking appropriate questions which help to clarify the circumstances and to focus the discussion on moral reasoning.

2. The best discussion of a moral dilemma involves students doing most of the talking.

3. A teacher may not need to cover all of the optional dilemmas and the list of probe questions included in each lesson plan. It is possible to cover each step in the teaching process and facilitate a good discussion by only using the original dilemma and several questions.

4. It is not necessary for the teacher to identify stage-related student comments during a class discussion.

5. A class discussion of a dilemma should focus primarily on the moral aspect of the dilemma situation rather than the content or factual aspect.

6. Most of a class session should be devoted to the small group tasks, a general class discussion, and a closing technique.

7 Part of this experimental project involves an attempt to measure the usefulness of the teaching process. Therefore, review each step prior to teaching each moral development lesson.

K-12 Report Form: Use of the Moral Reasoning Strategy

Name_____

School_____

Grade_____

1. I have taught the following dilemma:

   Name of dilemma:_____
   Publisher (if any)_____

2. What went well:

3. Problems:

4. Other Comments:

5. Would you like a building resource person to visit you at a mutually convenient time? Check appropriate ones below:

   _____ No, I can proceed well enough on my own for the time being.

   _____ Yes, I'd like to discuss this aspect of the K-12 curriculum. (Could be about materials, classroom strategy, etc.)

_____ I'd like to receive some self-instructional materials on Kohlberg's theory, the teaching strategy, other: _____.

6. I will teach another moral dilemms using this strategy sometime in the month of _____.